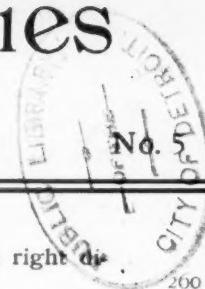


Public Libraries

(MONTHLY)
(Except August and September)

Vol. II

May, 1906



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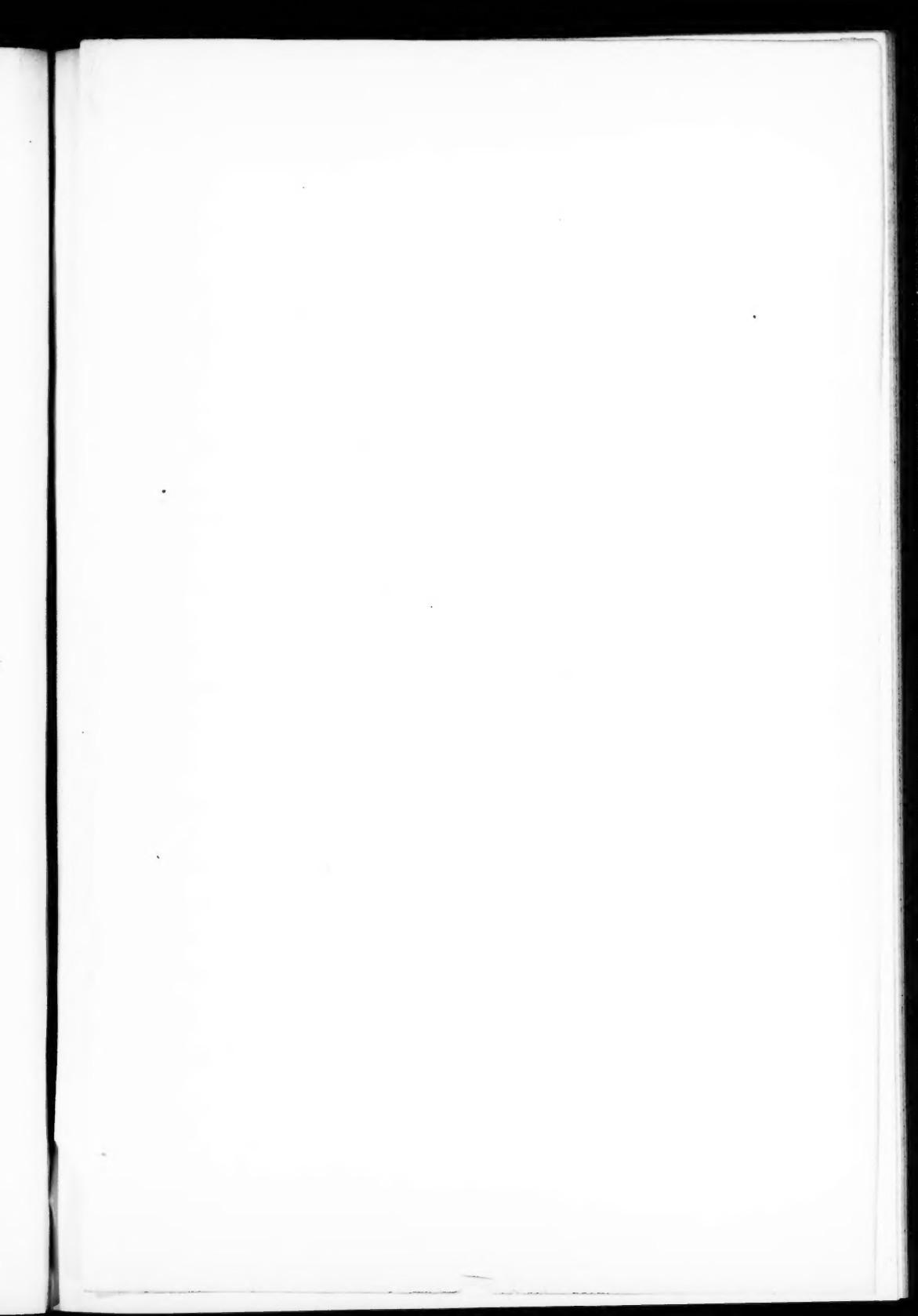
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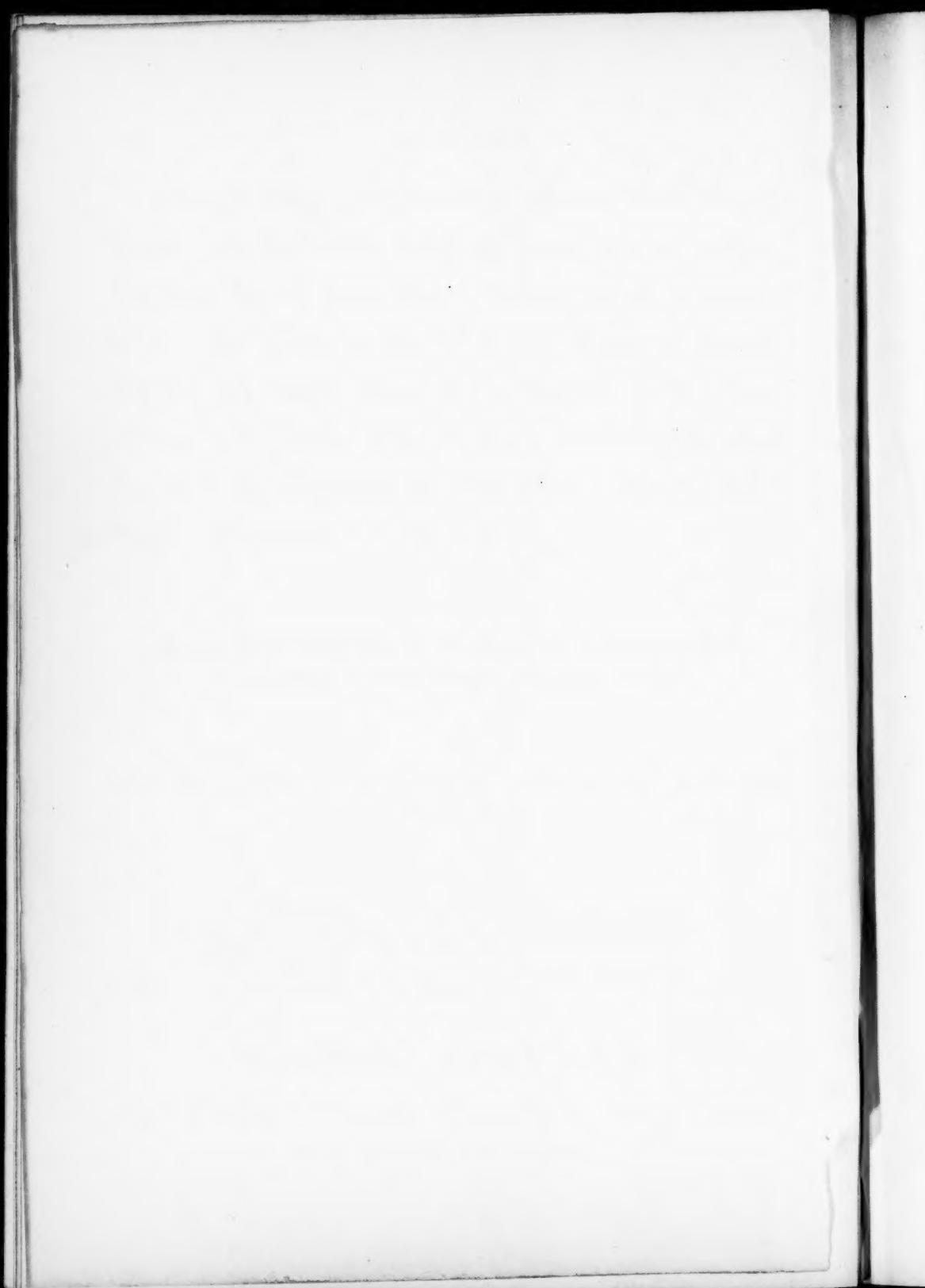
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Binder of Public Library Books





Public Libraries

(MONTHLY)

Vol. II

May, 1906

No. 5

Charms and Traditions of the Narragansett Country

Seldom has the American library association chosen for its annual meeting a spot more historic, romantic and picturesque than Narragansett Pier, in Rhode Island. Long, sandy beaches, rocky cliffs and magnificent ocean view provide the sojourner with all the varied beauties which the sea affords, while the proximity of the Pier to the historic Narragansett country, puts him into touch with a region that is unique in its romantic setting.

Forty years ago Narragansett Pier was a little hamlet, with a few straggling houses and great possibilities. Today it is one of the largest of American watering-places, its hotels accommodating nearly 3000 guests and transforming the almost deserted village of the winter into a summer city. North of the hotels stretches for over a mile a white, sandy beach, terminating at its southern end with a rocky wall and the beginning of the walk along the cliffs. This walk, which extends for a distance of five miles as far as Point Judith, is both interesting and varied. Bordering the road are a succession of magnificent residences, the summer places of the Duns, the Hanans, the Wanamakers and other millionaires, the costly structures and tastefully kept grounds standing out in sharp contrast to the rugged natural beauty of the nearby landscape. On the left are the rocks, now letting the billows glide easily off their hoary backs and now lashing the waves into a fury

that hurls the spray high in the air. Silent and lonely stands the "Indian Rock," where the Indian maiden threw herself into the sea after waiting in vain for the return of her sailor lover. And beyond it all stretches the old ocean, over which one gazes with the realization that no land intervenes between his eye and the coast of Spain.

Narragansett Pier is on the eastern border of a region that of all localities in colonial America has a history peculiarly its own. Purchased from the Indians in 1657 and 1659, largely by Boston land speculators, the Narragansett country was the scene of constant strife between the colonies for its possession for 70 years, when Rhode Island's just claim to the territory was finally established. During King Philip's war the region was frequently visited with conflict, and it was in the swamp north of Worden's Pond, about seven miles from the Pier, that there occurred the Great swamp fight of Dec. 19, 1675. By the middle of the eighteenth century, the ownership of vast estates, the possibilities of slave labor and property laws that favored the growth of an aristocracy combined to bring into being a sort of plantation life which was akin to that of Virginia, and has made Narragansett country the theme of much romance and story. Estates of over 10,000 acres, flocks of 4000 sheep, households of 100 persons, weddings at which 600 guests were present, are recorded facts that indicate a scale of living different from anything else in New England.

There are many historic associations to this favored locality that give color to the story of the annalist. At Hammond's Hill, about eight miles from the Pier, is the birthplace of Gilbert Stuart, the painter, and the only one of his profession to receive a place in the Hall of fame. In later years, when he had risen to eminence in England, Stuart was once asked where he was born. I was born in Narragansett, he humorously replied, six miles from Pottawoom, and 10 from Poppasquash, and about four miles west of Conanicut, and not far from the spot where the famous battle with the warlike Pequots was fought. Although such a mystifying answer must have puzzled his questioner, surely where in all New England could an artistic spirit have been better nurtured than in this picturesque locality?

Commodore Oliver Hazard Perry, the hero of Lake Erie, was also born in Narragansett country. He came of a seafaring race. His father, Capt. Christopher Perry, served on many privateers and frigates, and it was his brother, Commodore Matthew C. Perry, who by opening trade with Japan gave to that country the beginnings of her present progressive civilization. There are many houses scattered through the Narragansett country which, for one cause or another, are of interest. The antiquarian would delight in examining the Palmer Northrup house, built about 1650 on what in early days was called the Pequot path; or the old Phillips house, sometimes called Mowbra castle, at Belleville; or the historic Updyke house, near Wickford, built at the close of King Philip's war on the site of the Smith blockhouse.

On the road leading south from the Pier, stands a noted landmark, Hazard castle, with a tower seven stories high and 160 feet above sea level. Its owner, Joseph Hazard, a man who in his later life became a well-known spiritualist, was a devoted lover of bird life, so much so that many of the trees on his estate were planted solely for their use, and even his gravestone was so fashioned that it contained little cup-shaped hol-

lows from which birds might drink. Canonchet, on the Boston Neck road, is the residence of William Sprague, who was once a man of enormous wealth and a commanding figure at Washington, and today is one of the three living war governors of the Union. This mansion, with its mural decorations, its famous \$40,000 staircase and its costly furnishings, is one of the show places of the Pier.

Much more could be told of the charms and traditions of the Narragansett country—of the teachings of the eccentric prophetess, Jemima Wilkinson; of the regicide Edward Whalley and the piratical Captain Kidd; of the annual nigger election, where the pomp and ceremony rivaled the colonists' gubernatorial election; of the Narragansett pacers noted throughout the colonies for their fabulous speed and endurance; but the limits of this brief article forbid. If one cares to go further, Alice Morse Earle's delightful little book, *In old Narragansett*, would well repay an hour's reading. Edgar M. Bacon's chapter on the subject in his recently published *Narragansett bay* portrays in graphic manner the charm of this region; in fact, his whole volume should be read by any stranger about to visit Rhode Island's shores.

Oh, isn't it great to be "up-to-date"!

And live in this year of grace,
With a system and place for everything,
Tho' nobody knows the place!

We've an index card for each thing we do,
And everything under the sun;
It takes so long to fill out the cards,
We never get anything done.

We've loose-leaf ledgers for saving time,
The Lord knows what they cost!
When half our time is spent each day
Hunting for leaves that are lost.

And sectional this and sectional that
(We'll soon have sectional legs);
I dreamt last night that I made a meal
Of sectional ham and eggs.

I dreamt I lived in a sectional house,
And rode a sectional "hoss,"
And drew my pay in sections from
A sectional "section-boss."

Oh, isn't it great to be "up-to-date"!
And live in this age of grace,
With a system and place for everything,
Tho' nobody knows the place!

—*Library world.*

Reaching the People*

Some methods of popularizing a library

Purd B. Wright, librarian, St Joseph, Mo.

There can be no tenable reason why the library should not be aggressive in making itself known and felt; why dependence should be placed solely in the drawing powers of a more or less stately building, bearing a "public library" sign on its imposing face. The question of expense is one of the great drawbacks to most library missionary work. The person who would advocate expending the price of two good books in creating a demand for a third which might not otherwise be used, might be doing a good thing for the community, but he would be criticised, possibly justly. So also is the library subject to criticism which expends all its income for books, which have a limited use, rather than a just proportion in endeavoring to bring before the people what books it has and what they may be good for.

That there are large classes of people it has seemed hard to interest in the library and what it stands for, people who do not care for lighter reading as mere entertainment, yet who do not buy the heavier class of books, is known to all interested in library work. With some it is a certain professional set; with others, business men; with all of us, that large body of citizens, possibly fairly well educated, who know something about books, care for them and will read them from the library if their interest be aroused; those people who are interested only in special things but who do not seem to realize that they can find what they want in the library; and, last and greatest of all, the hosts who compose the army of trade workers, who apparently do not know that, no matter what their occupation, any well-conducted library will be of help to them in giving an increased knowledge of their work, or, realizing it, fail to evince sufficient interest in the matter to use the library. The greater difficulty is not that of merely reaching these people,

to make known the fact that there is a library and that it stands more than ready and willing to do its part, but to endeavor to arouse in them a desire to do something for themselves—in other words, to create a want which the library may be a prominent agent in meeting. Not the least important part of this is properly presenting to the last class the fact that the library is for the man of muscle and brawn as well as for the literary inclined. All this is an educational problem. It may not be out of place to say that it has not yet been solved; nor will it be solved today or tomorrow. By making known its resources and willingness to aid every one, as it should be known, the library may be one of the potent factors in the work.

Bulletins—Library workers generally regard the printed bulletin as the best method of keeping the library and its attractions before the people. An ideal bulletin contains a complete list of additions to the library, with careful annotations for all important titles which are not in themselves explanatory. The complete list appeals to many for the reason that if a volume is placed on the shelves, it is with a view of its use by patrons. Being there, the patrons and those one would like to have as such, should be informed of the fact. Such a list without annotations has done good work, and will continue. But the thought occurs that if librarians find the annotated lists vastly helpful in purchasing, as they surely do, how much more necessary is it for the casual reader and how helpful to them. As to arrangement of titles, whether in one alphabetical list or under specific or general subject headings, is not of grave importance. If, in addition to such a list, the bulletin contains library news, lists on timely topics, with annotations if possible, it is doubly valuable. The full value of even the best of bulletins will not be secured unless it is circulated with due regard to the end for which it was intended. It certainly will not prove wholly satisfactory if circulated only among regular patrons. If they be placed in the schools, factories, Sunday schools, all reading

*Read before Illinois library association, April, 1905.

rooms in the city, Y. M. C. A., Y. W. C. A., labor union halls, lodge rooms, commercial clubs, boards of trade, wherever they are likely to attract attention—even mailed at library expense to those whose interest is sought, results will follow as crops follow a thorough tilling of the prolific field. The smaller library, with its cramped income, may reach many people with typewritten or even pen lists and the cheap duplicating processes. If bulletins must be sold, their value, so far as library missionary work is concerned, is reduced to a minimum. The writer is not an advocate of the bulletin supported by outside advertising, but such a bulletin is a thousandfold more valuable, from a library advertising point of view, if circulated without price than the bulletin without advertising, sold, even if the price be but 1 cent. It is preferable that the library purchase fewer books and have them well used, than to have many volumes, be they ever so valuable, which are never taken from the shelves, simply because the people who own them do not know they are there.

Newspapers—Of equal importance with the bulletin is the newspaper. An intelligent and prompt use of this medium will prove it to be one of the best means of advertising the library. They do not, as a rule, care for long lists of mere titles, but they will usually publish lists of important additions to the library and will use annotations, lists on special topics of timely local or general interest. In addition to these, the average newspaper will welcome contributions, suggestions for general and special articles about the library or its work along any line. The publisher or editor is well aware that library patrons, as a rule, are general readers and comprise a fair proportion of the intelligent people he is endeavoring to interest in his paper at least to the extent of their subscriptions; that possibly no single item he may print will appeal to a larger local clientele than does the item in reference to the library. By an arrangement with the business office, bulletins may be made of these lists and items and published at

small expense, credit, of course, being given to the newspaper for the courtesy.

Proceedings of the library board interest the public; lists of donors serve the double purpose of public acknowledgement of gifts and of bringing to the minds of others things which, while of little use to them, may prove of value to the library; a rare book serves as an excuse for mentioning the library; an expensive volume, likewise. A perusal of Admiral Robley D. Evans' book, *A sailor's log*, developed the fact that Fighting Bob came near meeting an untimely end in St Joseph in his boyhood days. It proved a good story because of the local color and called attention to a book in the library which appealed to many. Lists of popular books, books most called for, of "best" books, books on topics which are being discussed, any aids for the "literary" column, "books reviewed," make good newspaper items, good library advertising. A famous author dies, or marries, or does some other thing of more than passing interest—a reference to some of his books in the library is interesting to readers. All live librarians use these, with many other variations, always to the benefit of the library. (In this connection I can not refrain from calling attention to the effective advertising being done in the Newark (N. J.) newspapers by the library of that city. If the Newarkians are not thoroughly posted as to what the library is and wants to be to them, it is not the fault of Mr Dana and his staff.)

With children—Schools—No work will produce such quick results as that done with children, preferably through the schools. To be fully effective, it must have the hearty coöperation of school officers and teachers. Here are a few results of close coöperation in St Joseph: Under Mr Carr (now of Scranton) and Mr Elmendorf (now of Buffalo), this library made a specialty of work with children. First results, its present home, obtained through the school district. Last fall (1904) the school board provided and placed in the library 2900v. to be issued to teachers in the regular

grades for supplementary reading. The library prepares the books and handles them, issuing on teacher's cards. Time limit, two months, and in grades above the second, one-half the number of volumes are issued as there are members of a class. It will not be necessary to go further into this phase of the work than to say that no record is kept of the use in the schools, although the books are sometimes used by three or four teachers, quite often by two. The 2900v. have been issued from the library 11,000 times, first issue being October 11.

As to library benefit—The books carry the library slips, etc., and the teachers, to insure proper care, impress upon the children the fact that the books are from the library. Every pupil in every ward school in the city is thus reached several times a year. The use of the children's room at the main library (branch statistics not obtainable for this) shows the following percentage of increase, by months, as compared with the same time last year: October, 58; November, 62; December, 71; January, 82.4; February (close of first school term, examination, changing of grades, etc.), 66; March, 100; April (to 15th), 102. Use of stories, as stories, has largely decreased. Following up this work, the library has placed in the hands of the teachers as "expert first aid" to the children, copies of the A. L. A. booklet compiled by Miss Hewins, Books for boys and girls, and has placed in the high schools and most of the other buildings the A. L. A. catalog. This expert assistance is appreciated by the teachers, is of great value to the pupils, and aids the library in its work, besides being an advertisement which constantly keeps the library before a large number of young people it would otherwise have difficulty in reaching in so satisfactory and convincing a manner.

School lists by grades, annotated (see Pittsburg, Cleveland, Buffalo and other notable library school lists), preferably a copy for each child; but if these can not be provided, two or three printed or typewritten lists for each schoolroom; the children's story hour at the library;

personal visits to schools, with short talks about entertaining books; the displaying of the drawing of school children, by room, in the children's library, with notice to the school when these will be on the board; of decorative work by any class, handicraft work of any kind (baskets, beadwork, manual school work) are means of making the library known, that few librarians can afford to neglect. Display boards and show cases for children's work effect a double purpose. The little ones will come to the library to see their handiwork as it is shown and many of them bring their parents with them.

Lists for Sunday-school teachers, containing helps and aids, as well as good stories to tell the little ones, reach a class of most desirable patrons. This will in time lead to close coöperation between the Sunday school and the library. In many cities it has already done so.

Special lists—A successful method in many places is the use of special lists, slips, bookmarks, etc. These do not do all they should, unless handled with discrimination—they certainly do not if simply placed around the library. They are to be regarded as means for emphasizing certain books—as display lines in an advertisement—when compared with the bulletin. To be effective, they must be timely and all but placed in the hands of those sought to interest or help. It takes time to do this, but it pays. Any given lists need not be long, nor of necessity of new titles. But the titles used should be of good books and authoritative. For instance, if through such a list one places in the hands of a machinist a volume purporting, by its title, to be of help at the bench, and he finds it old and out of date and methods antiquated, he is apt to assume that the library can not help him and lose interest at the start.

There is hardly a limit to the number of such lists a well-equipped library may prepare, while even the smaller libraries may issue a few each year. A watch of any new movement, a subject which is arousing temporary but general interest,

will furnish suggestions for lists which are likely to bring "quick returns," as the advertising man would say. The distribution should be as general as possible, with especial attention in the direction the interest seems to lie. A broad view to consider, in the distribution of any list, is that a man may be one thing by force of circumstances, while his inclination and taste might lie in an entirely different direction. If the philosophizing shoemaker, the fruit-growing banker, the garden-loving lawyer, can be given fresh interest in his likes, why not?

Traveling libraries—Traveling libraries, whether in the school, the settlement, the labor club, the factory, the study club, the machine shop, the fire department, etc., are most valuable aids in advertising the library. Every one can not come to the library, and to hosts of those who can not come, the library should go. To the sick room, to the hospital, to the blind, to the afflicted. Grateful hearts often prove to be the foundation of a big popular movement. This is missionary advertising, in reality.

Timeliness in advertising—In most advertising, timeliness counts for much. The "best books" list for general readers does not have its special season but most other books have. A book list at this time on the Chinese Boxer trouble of a few years ago, would appeal to comparatively few people. The Russo-Japanese war, as a general topic, would be much more to the point as up-to-date advertising. Lists in aid of the Civic improvement league would find use at this season as would lists of books on flowers, plants, and gardening, and they would help in beautifying the city. Helps to those contemplating building houses, plans, etc., will be used more in the spring than in the fall. So on, through hosts of things in which the library can be helpful while getting close to the people.

In general—The use of the telephone for renewing books, answering questions which would not otherwise come to the library, extends the library's usefulness to the public and advertises it. Delivery

of books by special messenger at a small cost to the borrower (in operation in some eastern libraries); branch reading rooms, delivery stations, branch libraries and work with study clubs, are big advertisements. So are short talks by the library worker in proper places. Any good work or thing which aids in extending the influence of the library and enlarges its field is effective advertising.

The library worker who bears in mind the phrase of a well-known advertiser, We are advertised by our loving friends, who does all in his power to widen the library acquaintance and use by every legitimate means, whether enumerated here or not, is doing good advertising work, by whatever other name it may be called. And if to all this be supplemented cordial, willing and competent aid at the library when the advertising has taken root, then, and not until then, has the library done its part.

Physical Training and Hygiene From City library, Springfield, Mass.

- Faries.** Practical training for athletics, health and pleasure. Based on personal experience.
- Knauff.** Athletics for physical culture. Physical training combining pleasure.
- Greene.** Healthy exercise. Practical book for everyday use.
- Bingham, ed.** Book of athletics. Practical essays by different writers.
- O'Reilly.** Athletics and manly sport. The ethics and high value of physical exercises.
- Sargent and others.** Athletic sports. Well illustrated, practical essays.
- Wadsworth.** How to get muscular. Addresses on higher athletics.
- Dalton.** How to swim. Directions for all kinds of swimming feats.
- Sinclair and Henry.** Swimming History and practice of the art.
- Wilson and others.** Mountain climbing. Ascents of famous mountains.
- Blaisdell.** A practical physiology. Illustrative experiments are given.
- Colton.** Physiology; experimental and descriptive. Good suggestions for practical use.
- Blaikie.** How to get strong and how to stay so. Simple and sensible directions.
- Pyle, W. L., ed.** Manual of personal hygiene. On promoting physical and mental vigor through proper living.
- Hayes.** How to live longer and why we do not live longer.
- Miles.** Avenues to health. Practical suggestions.

Books as Merchandise

C. W. Andrews, librarian, The John Crerar library, Chicago

The text "Books as merchandise" offers an opportunity for a discourse with as many heads as an old-fashioned sermon. I shall pass over those points, such as the manufacture and first marketing of books, as to which I have no personal knowledge, and take up in detail one which is of great interest to me as a librarian and which may be of some interest to you as owners of books, namely, the determination of the market value of collections of books.

The problem is not an academic one, for this value should be included in the statement of the assets of every public library. I believe that most of the libraries which do include it simply report the total amount which has been spent. This is not a statement of the market value, for a very small percentage of most collections can be sold for anything like what was paid for them when new.

On the other hand The John Crerar library charges off 10 per cent depreciation each year and this seems to me to err almost as much in the other direction. Yet it is true that, so far as the general run of individual works is concerned, this rule does give an approximately correct result. A collection of such works, bought as new and not kept up to date, would be worth in 10 years just about one-third of its original cost.

There are many factors in the problem, and their relative influence has not been determined, so that I must content myself with a statement of them, and the merest outline of what I consider the proper formula.

In the first place let us consider the market value of the individual books, remembering always that this does not solve the main question, which is the value of the collection as a whole.

In so doing we must first understand clearly that it is proposed to determine the selling price and not that which would have to be paid to replace the

collection. There is a wide difference between these, a fact which is usually ignored by the intending seller, who appears not to understand that a dealer in books must have a considerable margin in order to recoup his expenditures for rent, salesmen, and advertising, as well as to pay interest on his investment and secure a reasonable profit for himself. Undoubtedly valuable books can be sold at auction for more than to dealers, but even then the expenses of the sale amount to an appreciable percentage of the prices paid by the purchasers. Even at private sale directly to the customer, at least in the case of libraries and other large purchasers, the strictest equity would require some deduction from the price in the open market, on account of the necessity of immediate collation, the additional cost of purchases of single items, the discount usually allowed by dealers to libraries, etc. Moreover, a library must be tempted to purchase as it does not feel the same necessity for an immediate purchase as does the private collector, who has only a few years in which to make his collection, while the library has all time.

If this difference in point of view between the seller and the buyer is most often overlooked by the inexperienced, the effect of age upon the value of books is the one most often wrongly estimated by them. On the one hand some people apparently have no idea that a book has any permanent value and would consign last year's almanacs and directories, early Americana, seventeenth century pamphlets and incunabula to one common rubbish heap. Usually, however, the error is in the other direction and the family which has an eighteenth century cyclopedia in the nth edition with one cover and half the title gone cherishes it as a first folio Shakespeare or a Mazarin Bible, or the old lady who has seen the newspaper accounts of the prices of old books thinks them a function of age alone and writes you that she has a book over 100 years old and asks you what you will give for it, without thinking it necessary to send any information as to author, title, or condition.

Even persons who know what "Aldines" and "Elzeviers" are seem inclined to think of incunabula as rarer and more expensive than they really are. As a matter of fact age alone gives value only to books printed within a generation from the invention of printing. After that time it ceases to be the principal factor.

The effect of the rarity of a book upon its price is often overestimated. A great many intrinsically worthless books or books in little demand are very rare, but this fact does not secure high prices for them. It is true, on the other hand, that combined with other qualities which make a book desirable the rarity is of the greatest importance and that a book must be rare to bring more than its original price.

The condition of the book must also be considered. The estimate placed upon it by the private seller is likely to vary, and often amusingly, according as the condition of the volume offered is good or poor. Purchases made of second-hand dealers are not so uncertain on this point for the terms "as new" and "in good secondhand condition" have conventional meanings which no reputable dealer fails to follow. Books which have been owned by public libraries are rarely included in the latter class without the stamp on the title-page or other mark of ownership being indicated. The effect on the price is appreciable though in most cases not large. The presence of the autograph of the previous owner does not diminish its secondhand value though it does prevent it from being sold "as new." On the other hand an engraved bookplate or the autograph of a person of any note may increase the value. The binding has curiously little influence on the price unless it is old and still good (the more nearly contemporaneous the better), or is by some noted binder. In the latter case, indeed, the chief value may lie in the binding.

Of all the factors influencing the price of books the most elusive as well as the most important is what may be termed the demand for them. I mean this to

connote not only the number of possible purchasers but also their eagerness and their ability to buy. The importance of all these points is easily seen. Books which appeal to few readers do not give dealers so quick a turnover of their stock and consequently do not permit as close figuring as those which are constantly in demand. Again, books which appeal only to professional men can not obtain such high prices as those desired by wealthy amateurs. No matter how much an individual or institution wants a book it can not be bought if the money is lacking. Most books are to most people a superfluity; some books are to some people a necessity; but to very many people all books are a luxury. The iron trade is said to be a good barometer of the general prosperity of the country, but I am inclined to think that the prices of old books of value are even a better test of the margin available for luxuries among the well to do. That the test is very sensitive is well known to those familiar with the subject. A good place to study these changes is in the records of the book auctions. While the conditions at individual sales vary greatly and the same book may bring more or less according to them, yet so far as the average price is concerned a perfectly definite upward trend will be noted for several years to be followed by a decrease more or less sudden according to the nature and extent of the financial depression which has caused it.

If I may be allowed the digression, I might add that attendance at a sale which offers a sufficient number of items which you want and more which you would like is a very pleasant pastime. Not only do you have the hope of filling gaps in your collection but of doing so at prices which will permit you to make more purchases than you had counted on; and again, there are few places where the peculiarities of human nature are more in evidence. The man who can not understand the plainest statement as to the conditions of the sale, the one who hesitates until his bid is lost, the men (perhaps more frequently

the women) who are so excited by the competition that they readily bid half as much again as the price of a new copy; the bidders who try, by assumed indifference or reluctance to increase their bids, to induce each other to quit at half the value of the book—these and many more are to be met with. Indeed, I am inclined to think that the encounter of two agents with orders from wealthy patrons to purchase the same item "at any price" is the nearest we can hope to come to the solution of the problem of the schoolmen as to what would happen if an irresistible force should meet an immovable obstacle.

Perhaps I have said enough to show that it is not so easy to ascertain the fair market value of an individual book as to determine that of many other commodities. As was stated, however, the problem is to determine that of a collection of books, and that is still more complicated. Even if the collection is so small that it is possible to take each item separately, the value of the collection may be considerably more or considerably less than the total. The influence of some of the factors already considered may be appreciably modified, as for instance the demand for a collection is harder to estimate because the purchasers are comparatively few. On the other hand at least two additional factors must be taken into account. One is the relative completeness of the collection, that is, the proportion which it bears to the whole number of works upon its subjects which are supposed to exist; the other is the degree to which it has been kept up-to-date. Perhaps covered by these two, but to be mentioned separately on account of its importance in professional libraries, is the number and degree of perfection of the sets of periodicals. How much this last point may affect the price is shown by the fact that two long sets of the same periodical, an important but not absolutely essential one, were offered by the same dealer; one lacked the first volume out of about 20, and was offered at less than one-half the price of the complete set.

As examples of the very varying val-

ues of collections let me refer to two recently offered The John Crerar library. Both were on political economy and related subjects. One contained approximately 28,000 pieces. It cost the owner about \$30,000 and was sold for \$50,000. The other contained 33,000 pieces, cost its owner \$85,000 and sold for \$35,000. Both were formed by purchase in the open market at approximately the same time. Why then the difference in the price realized? Undoubtedly the first contained many more rarities and was in better condition as to binding, but the main reason for its higher value was that it was limited to English economic history before 1850, and was considered to be practically complete on its subject while the other was much wider in scope, and necessarily contained a much smaller proportion upon its subjects. I may add that The John Crerar library was disappointed in its attempt to secure the first, because it was bought by the Goldsmiths Company on the day before our option was to take effect, but that it was successful in obtaining the second, which after all may be the better suited to our immediate needs.

Another curious instance of the difficulty of determining the value of a collection was told at a recent meeting of the Caxton club, by the victim. He was offered and purchased for \$300 a collection of Pennsylvania documents sent him from a small town in Wisconsin. He made a cursory selection of what he wanted and sold the remainder for \$300. The purchaser soon afterwards came back and said that there were some things so much in the first purchaser's line that he thought they must have been overlooked. This was admitted and they were repurchased for \$250. The other man then took out all that interested him and sold the remainder for \$300.

I think that you will agree with me that the complexity of the problem is such that only an approximate solution is to be hoped for, if even that is possible. It seems to me that the formula should allow for a depreciation of about 50 percent on all purchases upon receipt;

then for a slow depreciation, say of three or five per cent annually, this depreciation to continue indefinitely on the individual books, but to stop after a time on periodicals; and that the result thus obtained should be increased by a percentage small at first but larger for each 100,000v. in the library, provided the collection is kept up-to-date and its sets of periodicals maintained in perfect condition.

Such a formula would give the market value of the books. It would take no account of their value to the library, "as a going concern," which would be the cost of replacement plus an allowance for the loss of service during replacement. Nor would it take account of their incalculable value to the readers in serving their religious, social, educational, professional or business needs.

Library Methods in the Business World

James H. Canfield, librarian, Columbia university

Inquiry is often made of those in library work as to the inducements offered to either young women or young men to enter upon this profession. Because there are more young women than young men in library work, the information is more generally sought by or in behalf of the women.

It is not always easy to make satisfactory reply. When one has the entire circle of human activities as a field within which to choose one's life work, it is sometimes difficult to find the right place, or to find any place—the open door is not always open. The moment sections of this circumference begin to be left out of consideration, the field narrows and the difficulties of getting underway increase. The man who works with his hands at almost anything that is offered to a day laborer, has more chance of employment, in June at least, than the man who can only shovel snow.

In spite of all that may be said and of much that is said about the undesirability of women turning away from home

life and undertaking any part of the more arduous work of the world, undoubtedly the balance of argument and sentiment today turns toward the widest possible field for women. This is neither the time nor the place for the discussion of the fundamental question—it is sufficient for present purposes to take this statement as it has just been made.

The purpose of this present writing is to indicate a somewhat new field which is opening, in our great cities at least, for women with library training, who have also those other qualities which make success in the business world at all possible. For those who have taken up library work because of a dominant love of literature, of books as such, and because of a strong desire to make the individuality of books felt as a direct force in molding personality, this new opening does not appeal at all. But to those who have administrative ability, who rather enjoy the sense of power and the exercise of power, who "like to do things" and to feel themselves in the midst of intelligent and successful activity—to these the call from the business world comes as a strong temptation, to say the least.

Something of this has been known for several years, in a rather limited way, chiefly perhaps in connection with the excellent work done by the Library Bureau and other similar undertakings in the way of introducing library methods to business people. But the extension of this work in various directions has come within a very few years. It has been made known at Columbia for two reasons: first, because this is a metropolitan university, and as such maintains very close and very helpful relations to all the activities of the city; and second, because it has long been the policy of the librarian of Columbia to assist members of the staff, at any time, in finding more desirable positions elsewhere. Recognizing that we can not, at present at least, pay the salaries and offer other inducements which come from the lower city, members of the staff have always been notified that if at any time they

desire to withdraw in order to accept that which seems to be a better offer elsewhere they will be permitted to do so if this change can be made without serious detriment to the service of the university. This understanding has done much to increase the contentment and satisfaction of the workers in Columbia library.

The first call of importance which came to this library was from one of the largest law firms of the city. In a chance conversation one evening between a member of the firm and the librarian of Columbia, reference was made to the fact that the firm found it almost impossible to keep track of their rapidly increasing business, that their law library was now so large as to require a special custodian, and that their court papers and other legal documents could only be found after prolonged search and vexatious delay. The firm had made one or two efforts to improve these conditions, evidently with unskilled employés, which had lamentably failed. The librarian suggested that he could send a young woman to help them out, temporarily at least—an offer which was at once accepted. Unfortunately for Columbia library, the young woman's work was so satisfactory that she did not return. Further, her success attracted the attention of other law firms, and the movement seemed to spread. At present there are two young women in the office just referred to, both exceedingly competent and both rendering entirely satisfactory service, and both constantly employed.

Library methods of classification, the use of a card catalog or of several card catalogs to cover the business of the firm in all its departments, the greater neatness and the more orderly methods and the greater faithfulness of young women as a class (as compared with young men as a class)—these are the qualities and conditions which seem to mark this new undertaking.

Law firms, with their large libraries, and with their large accumulation of legal papers and court records; railway offices, both legal and administrative,

with quite equal demands for library methods of every description; insurance offices, in which card catalog methods have been known for several years, though the bulk of this particular work has generally been done under special contract; firms dealing extensively in fine stationery, in which it is necessary to find quickly engraved plates for visiting and reception cards, and for private stationery; business undertakings which call for a large number of men on the road, whose whereabouts and whatabouts need frequent oversight—all these, and many more, are finding that the active, alert, well-trained, experienced library woman is one of the most efficient helpers that they can possibly secure.

There is a more limited demand, though one not to be ignored by those seeking employment, on the part of firms manufacturing and interested in the sale of various devices for simplifying and classifying business accounts and records. They are in constant need of clever and well-trained women who can go to business offices and install the apparatus and general equipment which they sell, illustrating methods and giving clerks already employed some definite instruction as to the use of the different aids thus introduced.

It may be interesting to know the practical results at Columbia of the policy pursued, as noted above, as well as the success of those who have undertaken this commercial work. It is six years since the first member of the staff of this library withdrew. During that time at least 15 have left this library, of which the following are perhaps the more notable successes, considered from the standpoint of satisfactory positions as well as from the salary point of view.

One was receiving when she left Columbia less than \$400 per annum, was called to a position at \$600, and is now receiving \$1200. Another was called from a salary of \$500 to a position which paid \$960, and is now receiving \$1400. A third found an immediate annual increase of \$300 and is now receiving

nearly twice what Columbia felt able to pay. A fourth is now receiving more than twice the salary received here. A fifth went from \$400 to \$960, and is now receiving \$1300. A sixth left our apprentice class (we would gladly have retained her) for a position at \$600 per annum and is now receiving more than \$1000. A seventh had her salary increased 60 per cent above the Columbia figure, the first year. The eighth left us at \$750, received \$960 at once, and is now being paid \$100 a month. The ninth passed from a position at \$750 to one at something more than \$1000, and the tenth went from \$60 a month to \$75, with prospect of early promotion.

When these positions are referred to as satisfactory, we mean that the hours are no longer (often less) than here, the offices are quiet, well lighted, well ventilated and well equipped; all possible courtesy and consideration mark personal and official relations; there are quite as many holidays as with us (except that the summer vacation is necessarily shorter), and in many of these positions there is a large Christmas "remembrance" in addition to the fixed salary.

It is to be understood that the duties and responsibilities of the positions in the commercial world are not identical with those of the positions which were held at Columbia, which may partly account for the difference in pay. It is evident, however, that desirable positions in the business world, with better remuneration than that generally offered in library work, and with more promise of advancement and promotion, are open to competent women with library training and experience.

This article has been written as possibly suggestive to both the business world and the library world, and with a hope that it may prove helpful to each.

Courage is just strength of heart; and the strong heart makes itself felt everywhere, and lifts up the whole life and ennobles it, and makes it move directly to its chosen aim.

Report on Public Libraries in 1876*

For many years prior to 1876 it had been recognized that public libraries were important aids to public education. It was known that they were rapidly increasing and that they had assumed a position of importance as an educational force; but there were no data for determining the extent of their influence. Recognizing these conditions, the United States commissioner of education began in 1870 to gather and publish statistics of public libraries in this country. This work continued to increase until, in 1876, a full report was completed and published.

To any one who is seriously thinking of choosing library work as a profession, this report of 1876 on public libraries is invaluable. It is divided into four parts, the first giving the history of public libraries in the United States; the second showing their condition and extent at the time the report was made, in 1876; the third containing discussions of many questions of library economy and management; and the fourth giving information regarding all classes of libraries. It looks like a rather formidable volume, being a quarto of 1174 pages, but it is simply and clearly written and gives information and suggestions elsewhere difficult to obtain. Its chapters devoted to library economy and management are useful and practical aids to librarians and to those interested in libraries, even at the present day, after 30 years of library development.

The first chapter is by Horace E. Scudder and describes public libraries 100 or more years ago. An interesting description of the Philadelphia library and of Benjamin Franklin's connection with it is illustrated by a quaint picture of the Loganian library, which was bequeathed to Philadelphia by James Logan in 1745, and became in 1792 a part of the Philadelphia Library Company. Redwood library, built in Newport, R. I., in 1748 is also shown.

* A review prepared for Newark (N. J.) public library study class.

The next three chapters are written by the editors of the report, S. R. Warren and S. N. Clark, and give interesting descriptions of school, asylum and college libraries. New York took the lead in the movement to establish school libraries. This movement was at first opposed by many; but as the same persons opposed the public schools their opinion carried little weight. A law was passed in 1836 which was to place within 15 years over 1,600,000 books on the shelves of the school libraries of New York. The movement spread rapidly to other states. The plan, however, contained features which led ultimately to failure, not only in New York, but throughout the country. The causes of the dangers and failures in the school library system may be grouped in two classes: first, defects and frequent changes in legislation; second, incompetence and indifference in the administration of the law. But it would be untrue to say that these libraries have entirely failed to accomplish the good expected of them. From first to last, their shelves have held millions of good books, affording amusement and instruction, and cultivating a taste for reading in millions of readers.

The report on libraries in prisons and reformatories is also written by the editors, and is one of the most inspiring chapters in the book. Prison libraries owe their origin to the efforts of statesmen and philanthropists like Livingston, Mann, Dwight, Miss Dix and many others who, 40 years ago, devoted themselves to inculcating correct views as to the purposes of imprisonment. It was found that the libraries were highly valued by prisoners, as shown by the extent to which the books were used. The effect of the plan on the inmates was good. The books kept them cheerful and contented, and afforded them good topics of conversation, and they were by no means addicted to reading only the lightest literature; history, travel, biography and even science and philosophy found many readers.

The latter half of the book is devoted to minute and careful statistics and fig-

ures regarding library buildings, and to notes on the organization and management of public libraries. Plans are shown for a library of 1,000,000v. capacity, giving all necessary dimensions. The article on the organization and management of public libraries by William F. Poole, author of the Index to periodical literature, etc., contains useful elementary information on this subject, much of which is still up-to-date. This is one of the most important chapters in the book to those who wish to build or organize a library. He considers many details, from the selection and purchase of books to records of circulation. Another chapter of note is that on library catalogs, by C. A. Cutter, who was already an authority on the subject. This is quite an exhaustive treatise, describing many different kinds of catalogs. It is followed by other chapters on the same subject, by Melvil Dewey and others.

One of the many good points in this book still calls for special attention; it is that there be established professorships of books and reading in schools and colleges. This office should not be confused with professorships of belles-lettres, of English literature, of rhetoric and oratory, of modern languages and literature; for it is something quite distinct from all these.

"Not the history of literature, or any one literature, or any one department of literature, or the grammar of any language, or any one language, or language itself, or any form of its use, or even any particular form of thought. It is something higher than any of these; it is not any one subject, any one field of investigation, but it is a method for investigating any subject in the printed records of human thought. It might be compared with the calculus in applied mathematics; it is the means of following up swiftly and thoroughly the best researches in any direction and of then publishing them further; it is the science and art of reading for a purpose; it is a calculus of applied literature."

M. E. MITCHELL.

Public Libraries (MONTHLY)

Library Bureau	Publishers
M. E. AHERN	Editor
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PUBLIC LIBRARIES does not appear in August or September, and 10 numbers constitute a volume

By the rules of the banks of Chicago an exchange charge of 10 cents is made on all out-of-town checks for \$10 and under. In remitting subscriptions, therefore, checks on New York or Chicago banks or post office money orders should be sent.

The A. L. A. meeting at Narragansett Pier— The letter from the Narragansett country on another page adds to the prospect of pleasure at the A. L. A. meeting next month. The program for the meetings has not been definitely announced, but there is reason to believe that it will be up to the standard of such an occasion. The post-conference trip offers a delightful outing after the work is over. A large attendance is expected and the opportunity for a profitable and satisfactory conference is good.

A good library report that is also good printing— The report of the Pratt institute free library for the year ending June 30, 1905, which has just been issued, is an exceedingly good piece of typography as well as a creditable report of library activities. This is a sample which any library may take for a model. It combines all the necessary features—good paper, clear type, logical and definite divisions of matter well set off by headings, easily understood and appropriate, the whole making a report that may be termed "a thing of beauty." It may not be amiss to mention in this particular that there is a very noticeable improvement in the "makeup" of library reports in general in recent years, quite in line with the substance of the report relating to the

work of the libraries that make them. The public libraries of Cedar Rapids and Dubuque are two libraries in the Middle West that send out admirable reports, the dress in which they appear quite befitting the material of the reports. There are others, too, that may be commended and their number is growing.

Report on library training— The A. L. A. committee on library training which is expected to make a report at the June meeting, is made up of those who ought to give such a report on this important subject as has long been due. The demand is growing for a more scholarly form of library instruction than is given at present in library training. The demand for librarians and assistants for public libraries, school libraries and ordinary college libraries is fully and satisfactorily met by the present organizations. But this demand nor the courses of study that fit for it do not appeal to the man who has already spent years in university study requiring great mental activity, original thinking, independent research, while this is the very class of persons of which the library profession needs more at present and badly. If the committee on library training will continue the kind of work offered at the Niagara meeting, pushing not only standards of admission higher but quality rather than quantity of work done, it will be a good thing. The members of the committee who are not of the library schools ought to be of great service in bringing the point of view of the outside into the discussion of the whole subject of library training.

Suggestions on a library school course— An outline of a course of instruction for a library school was submitted to one of the leading librarians not long since and

his criticisms point so directly that it is given here for general consideration although it was not written for publication:

I believe something could be done along the line of knowledge of books by means of training the powers of observation and the memory. I mean library people generally do not know about books. They do not keep their eyes open. They do not remember what they see. I believe some good hard practice along this line would be helpful. If a student looks for a total of 10 minutes at 20 different books, books of some importance in the library, she should be able to go into the next room and set down in writing something about most of them, showing that she has got them in her mind. This inability to see and remember things that come under her observation while she is learning the library business goes with an ignorance of literature in general. The course does not give too much time in current books. I doubt if it gives enough to old books. If it did no more than prove to most of the students that they know mighty little about books, it would be helpful.

The present situation on copyright—The progress of the conference on copyright revision is set forth in the bulletins of the A. L. A. committee on bookbinding on pages 252-253 and librarians may see what rights have been allowed them in the bill that is to be presented. It is a matter of satisfaction that the first contention of the publishers has been somewhat modified. It is understood that the only change contemplated now is to reduce the number of volumes that may be ordered in one invoice from two to one and to prohibit the importation of foreign editions of the work of Ameri-

can authors when an American edition is obtainable. The plea that this is for the protection of the author is unsound, but it is made, and will be met.

It is by no means certain that the bill will be allowed to pass Congress in its present form and so there is great necessity that librarians second the efforts of Mr Cutter in his plan to organize a Library copyright league [see P. L., page 297] to watch the process of legislation on the bill in order that what has been gained thus far shall not be lost in committee or in the course of the bill in either branch of Congress. Previous debates on copyright and other matters in which library affairs have been dealt with show the necessity for this. It is also expedient that librarians lose no time or opportunity to acquaint their representatives and others who may be interested, with the real facts in relation to the matter, so that when the time comes for action, the matter will be clearly and satisfactorily adjusted.

The library loss on the Pacific Coast—Librarians are called on to realize the awfulness of the recent disaster of fire and earthquake in California in common with persons engaged in other lines of activity. The account of the loss, as given elsewhere, suggests that a good many library workers must be among those who will find themselves in hard straits for some time to come. It might be a good thing to have a center of information through which mutual helpfulness might be extended, and the office of PUBLIC LIBRARIES will be glad to be used in this way if any one has either a request for or an offer of help to extend. It is too soon after the disaster to have definite knowledge of the situation, but not too soon to sympathize in a practical way.

Library Reading Course

The wider the field of vision in looking at any subject, the broader will be the view and the nearer true will be the impression gained thereby. This is particularly true in library work and those engaged in it will be effective in extending its influence in proportion as they realize what is being done under various circumstances and conditions. This is possible only by knowing what circumstances prevail and what conditions exist in the whole field of library progress.

At this point in the course of reading attention is directed to the sources of help that are open to every librarian in many states, no matter how remote from library centers or how small the collection in the particular library, by means of library commissions.

A matter which needs careful consideration is how much the initiative in library work should be in the hands of the outside power and how much should remain in the hands of the librarian. An eminent educator, in speaking on this point in relation to school work, has said:

If the state initiates and supervises too much, the danger is that the local districts will get to depend on it; and on the other hand, unless the general authorities do supervise and initiate to some extent, some self-centered districts will be apt to consider their schools among the best when they are really among the worst.

This thought is equally true applied to library work. Every library that is situated in a state having a library commission should be in close and direct relation with it. The time will come when this condition will be provided for by mandatory law in every state, but until that is the case, the relation and the helpfulness resulting from it must be largely voluntary. Sometimes librarians, conscious of their own shortcomings, refrain from asking the commission to learn of their needs. This is a mistaken notion that is most deplorable, for the greatest reason for the existence of the library commission is to

help the weak libraries and to supply what lack may occur in their professional equipment, particularly in those libraries which can not afford to supply that lack themselves. Untrained librarians in the states having commissions, who have not been helped by them but who feel the lack of professional help, should at an early date lay their needs before the proper state library officials. It is not an intrusion nor an imposition to do so, it is simply taking advantage of the means provided at public expense for the betterment of the library service of the whole state.

May reading

Theme—Foreign libraries (concluded); library commissions; summer schools

Library movement in foreign countries

St Louis conference proceedings of the A. L. A. 1904. Pages 23-92. May be had from the A. L. A. Publishing board, 10½ Beacon st., Boston, for \$1.

Also appeared as December, 1904, number of the *Library journal*.

PUBLIC LIBRARIES 9:365-415.

English and American libraries; a comparison. Andrew Keogh. PUBLIC LIBRARIES, 6:388-395.

Technical education and public libraries in England. J. D. Stewart. PUBLIC LIBRARIES, 10:455-457.

Library commissions

What a permanent library commission can do to aid libraries. H. H. Langton. PUBLIC LIBRARIES, 9:212-216.

A. L. A. reprints, series 5.

State library commissions. H. E. Legler. The work of an eastern commission. C. M. Hewins.

Traveling libraries. F. A. Hutchins. A. L. A. tracts, No. 3.

The entire number of PUBLIC LIBRARIES for February, 1905, is a commission number and may well be studied in this connection. It is the most comprehensive collection of material on library commissions to be had. It includes among other articles:

Instructional work of library commissions, p. 60-61. Alice S. Tyler.

Reports from various library commissions, p. 62-67.

Value and work of a state library organizer, p. 67-72.

Publications of the Iowa library commission, p. 81-82. A comprehensive view of the publications that any commission might issue.

Synopsis of laws authorizing library commissions, p. 83-87.

Free Importation of Books by Libraries

There are some phases of the question of the importation of books by libraries that need to be emphasized more strongly than has been done.

It is no doubt proposed to suppress the importation of foreign pirated editions of American authors, as Mark Twain and others, that have been published in England at much lower prices than in the United States. Of this class a small number are imported yearly by librarians who want to save as much money as possible.

There is, however, another class of copyrighted books which would be affected by the prohibition; these are the books of foreign authors of which copyrighted American editions appear simultaneously in America, either issued by branch houses of the English publishers or by American publishers who purchased the right for an American edition. These American editions are sometimes sold at lower prices than in England; in other cases the prices are about equal with the English editions, but many of the American editions are listed at considerably higher prices.

The present law making importation of books by libraries possible and desirable whenever the price is lower in London compels the American dealer to sell at about the price quoted in England; if importation should be prohibited, the American publisher may take advantage and will be under temptation to fix his price considerably higher than the price of the English edition knowing that the library is obliged to buy the American book.

Any modification of the present copyright and importation law would certainly be disastrous to the interest of libraries because the employés of the custom house carry out the letter of the law and not its spirit.

The number of books of the first class named above imported into this country is very small, only a few libraries taking advantage of the right to import cheaper foreign editions of American

authors; in such cases the American author as well as the publisher certainly suffers because no royalty is paid to the author; on books of the second class, however, royalty is paid to the author on both the English and the American edition and it certainly does not injure the author if the original English edition is imported into this country. The proposed law, however, would prohibit importation of both classes and even if it should be worded so as to affect only pirated American editions, the difficulties that arise in making out orders for books to be imported would be so great as to almost prohibit importation entirely; if by any error of the librarian or the importer or the foreign exporter, the American copyrighted book should be included in a shipment, not only confiscation of such book would follow, but the whole shipment would be held up for many weeks.

We had a definite experience a few years ago through the importation of a French book (*Rostand, L'Aiglon*) of which a French copyrighted edition appeared in this country. According to the copyright act and the tariff, the foreign edition could, of course, be imported by anybody in two copies and every library could import either directly or through its agent two copies in any one shipment. Although we furnished affidavit for free importation, as we do in the case of English books in order to secure free entry, our agent's whole shipment was held up upon the complaint of the holder of the American copyright and the books were only delivered after a delay of about two months. This case shows what would happen to importations after the adoption of the new copyright law including prohibition of copyrighted books.

ONE INTERESTED.

"I shall pass through this world but once; any good thing, therefore, that I can do or any kindness that I can show to any human being, let me do it now. Let me not defer it nor neglect it, for I shall not pass this way again."

What do Young Men Read?

At a recent meeting of the English club of Chicago, Prof. Linn of the University of Chicago gave an interesting report on an investigation which he had made as to what the young men in the junior college had read since coming to college. He said that 35 students had volunteered to be perfectly honest and frank in answering the questions put to them and he had no reason to doubt the answers. To the question as to how many had read any of the works of certain authors named, the following answers were given:

Those who had read any of Stevenson, 15; George Eliot and Kipling, 9; Dumas and Thackeray, 8; Scott, 6; Cooper, Balzac, de Maupassant, 4; Maeterlinck, 2; Howells, 1; Hardy and Jane Austen, none. Students who had read five or more volumes, all authors included, numbered 7; between one and five volumes, 13; one volume was read by 4 and 11 had read none.

The report on poetry was not ahead of that given on fiction.

Students who had read any poetry outside of that required in class numbered 8, and Riley, Ella W. Wilcox, Van Dyke and Wallace Irwin classed as poets.

To the question as to how many had read any current fiction 6 had read none; McCutcheon, 9; London, 7; Winston Churchill, 6; Norris, 6; Herrick, Dixon, Wister, 5; David Harum, 4.

On biography the following report was made: Eighteen had read none, 15 had read a little and 2 had read considerable, Charlemagne, Thaddeus Stevens, Andrew D. White, Blaine, Jay Gould, Joe Jefferson and McKinley included.

In essays, 19 had read none, 13 a little and 3 considerably. In this reading Emerson led and Lamb was second.

Knowledge of Bible literature was shown by the answers given as to the meaning of the following references:

Mess of pottage, 50 per cent of the answers were correct.

The strange death of Absalom, 55 per cent correct.

The cave of Adullam, 3 per cent (one out of 35).

The good Samaritan, 86 per cent correct.

Who shall cast the first stone, 50 per cent correct.

The answers to the question Who were the following, showed, Jezebel, 40 per cent; John, 27 per cent; Nathan, 14 per cent; Joshua, 55 per cent; Elisha, 50 per cent; Esau, 50 per cent; Potiphar, 9 per cent; Shadrach, 25 per cent.

There is interesting material here for librarians as well as teachers of English. While this inquiry was directed to a particular class in one place the answers probably stand typical of what is true of most young men. How shall the problem be met?

Book Buying

Bulletin of A. L. A. committee on book buying No. 22

It is announced in the *Book and news dealer* (New York, February) that L. C. Page & Co. of Boston have withdrawn from the Publishers' association, despite numerous efforts on behalf of publishers and booksellers to induce them to change their minds. They believe "that their best interests will be conserved by issuing their books independent of the Publishers' association." The paper named above goes on to say:

The publishers who are protecting the retail prices of their books are particularly anxious to know whether retail dealers will buy and put on sale the books of a publisher who withdraws all protection and issues his books under such conditions that the retail price may be cut without limit.

What do librarians say?

At the annual meeting of the American publishers' association, the request of the booksellers' association that fiction be issued hereafter at net prices and the period of protection extended to two years, was referred to the directors for report.

Attention is called to the *Book and news dealer*, of which, by request of this committee, sample copies have been sent to all members of the A. L. A. Note particularly the list of protected books, and items of information bearing on the net price system.

In a recent editorial the *Evening post* (New York, Jan. 20), thus dwells on

The lack of low-priced serious literature

"It is one of the weaknesses of our Anglo-Saxon civilization, that whereas the price of newspapers, of magazines, and of fiction have steadily tended downward, such has not been the case with what may be described conveniently as serious liter-

ature—literature that ranges from poetry through history to philosophy. How this affects our national position may be shown by a comparison with France. That country has a standard price of publication, 70 cents a volume, at which the bulk of current literature, both light and serious is produced. Bourget's latest novel and Henri Houssaye on Waterloo appear on the bookstall side by side and at the same price. And to say that this is simply because French serious literature is better written than ours is an exaggeration. A few years ago a London publisher set out to produce a translation of the complete works of Nietzsche. The first volume met with little encouragement; the second was accompanied by a slip from the publisher stating that unless the public responded better he would have to abandon the enterprise; the third has never appeared. In France, all of Nietzsche's works have long since been translated, and the least sold had run some years ago into several thousands.

Here we have not a question of style, but of price; not of the positive value of Nietzsche, but of intellectual curiosity. And we get a rough demonstration that in France, with less than 40,000,000 of people, there are probably from 5 to 10 persons who buy serious books to one in the English-speaking countries with nearly four times the population. If that is only approximately so, it is a terrible reproach to our civilization; and it is partly the result of the inflated prices charged for new works of serious literature. It should not be forgotten that the class of the community which buys, or might buy, such books, is one that feels very keenly the difference between paying less than \$1 or from \$2 to \$6. In Paris the publisher who should raise his price would lose his public; in London or New York the publisher who should lower his price would find the public unprepared and irresponsible. From the publishers there is little to hope save cheap reprints of works out of copyright; but might not an endowed press, working with steady policy over a course of years, help us? By inflexibly demanding adequate literary expression, by standardizing its prices at a low figure, by giving unknown authors a chance on their merits, by supporting scholars in difficult but little-trodden paths, it might serve a great national purpose."

We have yet no endowed press, but we have endowed and tax-supported public libraries.

Can not they do something to make the American public less "unprepared and irresponsible" to efforts in behalf of serious literature?

An instance of the way public libraries help publishers in spite of what has been said to the contrary. Anjou, P.O. box 812, N.Y., says that almost 500 public libraries subscribe to his American record series, the first volumes of which are the probate records of Ulster county, N.Y. Books appealing to a wider audience would naturally get even more library subscribers than did this.

The Copyright conference met in final session at Washington on March 13, and approved the

measure regarding the importation of copyright books that was agreed upon between the representatives of the A. L. A. on the one hand and the Publishers' association on the other. Particulars in No. 23.

Address inquiries and suggestions to any of the committee. Arthur E. Bostwick, chairman, N. Y. P. L., 209 W. 23; John Cotton Dana, Newark (N.J.) F. P. L.; Bernard C. Steiner, Enoch Pratt, F. L., Baltimore, Md.

No. 23

Result of Copyright conference

The final session of the Copyright conference was held in Washington during the week ending March 17. The draft of the proposed copyright law as agreed upon by those present, and as it will probably be submitted to Congress by the copyright office, contains a section with regard to the importation of American copyright books permitting such importation in the following cases:

1 Not more than one copy at a time by any person purchasing for use and not for sale with the written permission of the copyright owner.

2 One copy at a time for the use of the United States.

3 One copy at a time for the use of any society or institution incorporated for educational, literary, philosophical, scientific or religious purposes, or for the encouragement of the fine arts, or any free public library, or any institution entitled under the customs regulations of the United States to import books free of duty, except in case of foreign reprints of books by American authors.

4 Books forming parts of libraries or collections, for use of institutions designated in the foregoing paragraph, or belonging to persons or families arriving from foreign countries and not intended for sale.

5 All books and pamphlets in raised characters for the use of the blind.

6 All American books that are out of print.

If this part of the law as drafted is adopted by Congress, free public libraries will enjoy all their present privileges of importation with the exception that only one copy at a time may be imported instead of two, and that no book by an American author printed in a foreign country may be imported, unless out of print here.

The above is the substance, not the exact wording. The corresponding paragraphs as drafted in the copyright office will be sent out from that office shortly to every member of the A. L. A.

The draft as proposed by the authors and publishers at the first session of the conference in New York absolutely prohibited the importation of any American copyright book, including those of foreign authorship reprinted in the United States. Against this proposed section the delegates of the A. L. A. protested, according to instructions, and after conference with the representatives of the interests desiring such a section succeeded in coming to an agreement with them on the provision that has now been approved by the conference.

This section is now the official expression of the desires of the American library association, having been unanimously approved by the executive committee and also, though not unanimously, by the council. It does not, of course, bind either individuals or libraries in any way, or prevent them from taking such action as they may deem proper; but it is only fair to the delegates that no such action be taken without full knowledge of the circumstances under which they thought it best to urge the compromise that has now been approved by the association.

"Copyright must be a compromise, and the present arrangement is an exceedingly clumsy makeshift. Its defects and inconsistencies have been so fully recognized, and the difficulty of reconciling the conflicting claims has been so apparent, that the Senate committee on patents, in whose hands the matter rests, arranged in April, 1905, through the librarian of Congress, for a series of conferences at which the various interests involved should be represented. These discussions have been very profitable, and have resulted in a clearer understanding as to what each side asks and is prepared to concede. . . .

The case seems to be fully met by the proposal of Mr Cutter, that only the works of citizens or residents of the United States be thus barred out. It is as simple as the egg of Columbus. There is ordinarily no reason except cheapness for importing a foreign edition of an American book, whereas in the case of foreign books reasons are as plentiful as blackberries. The case of the general reader has not been presented in this controversy, because he is not an organized body, but there are a good many scholarly people scattered through the country who have a vital interest in the matter. Is there any sound reason why an American should be forbidden to buy an English edition of Swinburne, William Watson, Thomas Hardy, George Meredith, merely because there happens to be a copyrighted American edition? The author is protected—what protection does the publisher need beyond what the tariff gives? As every book lover knows, the only first edition that has value to a connoisseur is the original edition, the first English edition of an English book, the first American edition of an American book, and the few people who have taste in such things ought to have freedom to possess the book that best answers their needs. Book making is an art in itself, and what one purchases is often not the words of the author, but the "format"—the artistic contribution of the typesetter, printer and binder.

The proposal that Americans shall not be allowed to buy at any price an English edition of an English book is worthy of the dark ages. Mr Cutter's amendment, which the librarians seem willing to accept, fully protects the American author, and the libraries seem willing to substitute one copy for the two copies now allowed. On some such lines it should be possible to come to an agreement that will measurably content all, and yet not be injurious to the public interests."—*Springfield Republican*, March 9, 1906.

Full Names of Authors

(From Catalog division, Library of congress)

Anonyms and pseudonyms

- Golder, George A., 1875—**. Is author of Modern shorthand.
- Hetterich, Gustave J., 1868—**. Is author of The polite pupil.
- McCormick, Frank Joseph, 1871—**. Is author of Mr Durbar's toast.
- White, Herbert Brigham, 1874—**. Is author of Robert Ellsworth, his book.

Full names of authors of recent books

- Anderson, Wilbert Lee, 1857—**. The country town.
- Babson, Roger Ward, 1875—**. Bond offerings—Corporations.
- Barler, Orson Loydd, 1828—**. A study of Abraham Lincoln.
- Baroncelli, Joseph Gabriel de, 1857—**. Le théâtre française à la Nlle Orleans.
- Bender, Henry Richard, 1847—**. Twentieth century interpretation of Paul's epistle to the Ephesians.
- Braden, James Vance, 1853— and Graham, Joseph Kennedy, 1855—**. Graden system of railroad technical training.
- Brockway, Walter Belding, 1870—**. Electric railway accounting.
- Bruette, William Arthur, 1873—**. Modern dog breaking.
- Dreesbach, Philip, 1865—**.
- Driggs, John Beach, 1854—**. Short sketches from oldest America.
- Dubois, Leo Louis, 1873—**. Saint Francis of Assisi.
- Emery, George Davis, 1856—**. The miner's manual.
- Fairman, James Farquharson, 1863—**. Standard telephone wiring.
- Fowler, Russell Story, 1874—**. The operating room and the patient.
- Freer, William Bowen, 1865—**. The Philippine experiences of an American teacher.
- Frost, Mrs Lucy Jane Hutchins, 1830—**. Fireside reveries.
- Griggs, George Benton, 1861—**. Norkoma.
- Grundy, Mrs Mabel Sarah Barnes**. Hazel of Heatherland.
- Gunckel, John Elstner, 1846—**. Boyville.
- Harker, Mrs Lizzie Allen, 1863—**. Concerning Paul and Fiammetta.
- Harrison, Charles Simmons, 1832—**. Evergreens and how to grow them.
- Harvey, Arlington Coryle, 1873—**. Practical operation of the state and local government of Ohio.
- Hawthorne, Joseph Matthew, 1850—**. Proposed constitution for the Presbyterian church.
- Hazelton, John Hampden**. The declaration of independence.
- Hess, Minnie Stevens**. Correct bridge.
- Huebsch, Daniel Adolph, 1871—**. Tr. of Pfleiderer, Otto. Christian origins.
- Kelsey, Frederick Wallace, 1850—**. The first county park system.

- King, William Lyon Mackenzie**, 1874—. The secret of heroism.
- Koones, John Alexander**, 1848—. Everybody's law book.
- Leaver, James Marshall**, 1851—. Box making for profit.
- Lewis, Herbert Pierce**, 1874—. Eb Peechrap and wife at the fair.
- McCarty, Mme Marie Louise (Pernet)**, 1864—. The natural singing voice.
- McCormack, Walter Edwin**, 1875—. Insurance law of Illinois.
- Martin, Henry Desires**, 1865—. The economical and successful management of cotton mills.
- Millard, Thomas Franklin Fairfax**, 1868—. The new far east.
- Miller, Robert Clinton**, 1871—. Historic views of Gettysburg.
- Morrison, Alexander George**. Drapery, interior decoration, and architecture.
- Morse, Margaret Fessenden**, 1877—. The spirit of the pines.
- Ogden, Horatio Nelson**, 1843—. The child in the church.
- Orth, Samuel Peter**, 1873—. Five American politicians.
- Overland, Martha Uboe**, 1866—. A manual of statutory corporation law.
- Paine, Ralph Delahaye**, 1871—. The praying skipper and other stories.
- Pfanziehl, Albertus Augustus**, 1855—. William the silent.
- Preusser, Richard Frederic**, 1844—. Brain food for old and young.
- Quinn, Patrick Edward**, 1862—. The art reader.
- Sager, Daniel Showers**, 1859—. The new way. The art of living.
- Smiley, James Brady**, 1867—. A manual of American literature.
- Smith, George Gilbert**, 1825—. Leaves from a soldier's diary.
- Smith, Samuel Robert**, 1851—. The story of the Wyoming valley.
- Snow, William Gage**, 1866—and **Nolan, Thomas**, 1857—. Ventilation of buildings.
- Stevens, A. Jay**, 1866—and **Mallory, Charles Willett**, 1867—. Stir quizzers.
- Tarver, Harold McBride**, 1870—. The negro in the history of the United States.
- Thaxton, Jesse Ben Hill**, 1882—. Cain, or the vagabond of Nod.
- Thompson, Erwin William**, 1859—. Bookkeeping by machinery.
- Toney, Marcus Breckenridge**, 1840—. The privations of a private.
- Tower, James Eaton**, 1863—. Springfield present and prospective.
- Trinks, Willibald**, 1874—and **Housum, Cheno-weth**, 1879—. Shaft governors.
- Wadsworth, Mary Augusta**, 1852—. Shakespeare and prayer.
- Wakeman, William Henry**, 1855—. Practical guide for firemen.
- Warren, Frank Dinsmore**, 1879—. Handbook on reinforced concrete.
- Welch, James William**, 1835—. The achievements and abilities of the blind.

Picture Work in the Public Library of New Rochelle, N. Y.

Since our library moved into a larger building and added a children's room to its departments, four years ago, we have been collecting and classifying pictures of all kinds.

Last year we determined to make our collection useful in a way that would reach more children than those who come regularly to our children's room and see our monthly bulletins.

During the summer months a number of charts were made for the use of teachers in their work, especially in the teaching of geography.

The boards chosen for these charts were in two colors, black and a soft olive green. Two sizes were used, 20x13 in. and 20x15 in.

The variety of subjects covered by any bulletin was of necessity limited to the pictures at hand, but a description of the charts on Holland will serve as an example of the idea we have tried to carry out. We were fortunate in securing a number of colored pictures for this bulletin which add greatly to its attractiveness. One chart shows some of the famous buildings of Holland, another pictures the young queen from youth to her marriage. Another is composed of curious old prints. The remaining six charts which make up this bulletin show the country, its dikes and windmills, and the quaintly dressed people in the various phases of Dutch life.

Under each picture is written in white ink a short description. Dodge's Land of pluck furnished good descriptions for the Holland charts. Sometimes appropriate poems are used, and with each bulletin is a list of the books to be found in the children's room on the subject.

When about 100 charts, covering 50 or more subjects, had been completed, an exhibition was given to which the teachers in the schools, public and private, were invited. Many responded to our invitation and the pictures began to circulate.

We have never restricted a teacher as to the number she shall take at one time

or to the length of time she shall keep them. It is understood that after a reasonable time the charts will be sent for if wanted by some one else. For protection in circulation—teachers usually send children for the pictures—manila paper slips are used.

Our record last year showed a circulation of over 200. We found, however, that this did not represent the use of the charts, for sometimes a set, such, for instance, as the Thanksgiving or Washington bulletin, had been in every class in a school before being returned to us.

With the opening of schools this year, typewritten lists of our charts were sent to every school to be posted on its bulletin board. The result has been a steadily increasing demand for the charts and we feel that the enthusiastic testimony of many teachers to their helpfulness has more than paid for the time expended in their preparation.

JESSIE F. BRAINERD.

A View of Library Reports

DEAR EDITOR:

Complying with your irresistible request for our report in a condensed, helpful form, I enclose herewith some figures that will do absolutely no good to anybody, but which are, however, square and reliable facts. Of course we do not care to interpret such things as The log of a cowboy as a history or description of the West, and I am as a rule very little convinced by annual reports of a good many public libraries, beyond the fact that some of their claims are poorly supported and some of their aims out of touch with the real municipal wants of their communities.

As to the real character of the work performed by the public library and its possible importance in our community life, it will have to be learned from the statements of the people and not from any report of my own. However, it is only fair to acknowledge that no other municipal department has been so generously supported, financially as well as morally. Most sincerely yours,

LIBRARIAN.

Antagonism Between the Public and Library Assistants

"'Tis true; 'tis pity. Pity 'tis 'tis true", I fear, that there is more or less antagonism. There is fault on both sides it seems to me. We (the assistants) feel that the public expect too much, and they seem to feel that we do not wish to give them anything they want. We can not produce a book when it is not in the library, and we often do feel truly sorry when it comes in just after the person has gone out who wanted it.

A German friend of mine has told me of going into a public library in one of our larger cities, feeling lonely and not understanding the language very well. When she tried to get something to read she was answered so shortly and in such a rude way by the assistant that she turned away discouraged. One of the public who had overheard helped her to find what she wanted. This should have been a rebuke and mortification to the assistant, and it is to be hoped she learned a lesson in manners. She may have been exasperated (as we often are) by a person who does not know what they want and are not satisfied with anything offered, or by one who objects to paying 2 or 4 cents fine and is sure the book has been stamped wrong. There are others who are sure a book has been returned which is still stamped on the card, and will perhaps argue many minutes over it when you are in the midst of a rush, and then bring in the book next day with or without apologies according to the person.

There should be more sympathy and true courtesy on both sides.

LIBRARY ASSISTANT.

Library Material Wanted

In the early morning of March 30, the administration building of the University of Idaho, with almost the entire contents, was destroyed by fire. The whole working equipment of the university, except that of the school of mines, the domestic science department, and a part of that of the engineering

department is lost. The loss includes the entire library of about 12,000v.

As our loss is very heavy for so young an institution and state we are asking for help, especially for the library. We would be glad to receive library catalogs, especially from the larger libraries, and any material which is likely to prove useful in a college library. Pack-ages should be sent to the University of Idaho library, Moscow, Idaho.

BELLE SWEET, Lib'n.

A Disavowal of Editorship

To THE EDITOR:

The New York Publishing Society (sometime the Century History Company and the Publishing Society of Wisconsin) has recently issued a work in four volumes entitled *Wisconsin in three centuries*. I have not yet seen the publication in its entirety, but am credibly informed that my name appears on the title-page thereof in the capacity of "chairman" of its "board of editors." My sole connection with this history is the fact that I wrote the brief introduction, purely as a matter of friendly courtesy to the author, Henry Colin Campbell, managing editor of the Milwaukee *Journal*—he having shown me the proof of his first volume; and his monographic work in connection with the Parkman club publications being well and favorably known to me. This act of courtesy did not make me an "editor" of the work, much less the chairman of any so-called "board of editors" thereof. My several vigorous protests to the publishers against this unwarranted use of my name in the prospectus proved unavailing; all that appears possible now to do is to request my fellow librarians not to catalog the work under my name. In justice to Mr Campbell, who, I am glad to be able to say, has in no way been responsible for the peculiar methods of his publishers, the history should be credited to him; although from the subordinate manner in which his name is given on the title-page, this fact is not apparent to the cataloger.

REUBEN G. THWAITES.

Madison, Wis., April 24, 1906.

Harper's Book of Facts, 1906

The publishers are advertising this re-issue as a new edition, "thoroughly revised and brought down to date by competent scholars." The title-page pronounces it "a record of history from 4004 B.C. to 1906 A.D." The first date is about as justifiable as the second. Open the book at any place and you see evidence of its being the same as the edition of 1895 with here and there a table brought down to date, noticeably under England, France, Germany and the United States. But under most countries history stops at 1892 or thereabouts; see, e. g., Australia, Belgium, Denmark, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Mexico, Scotland, Spain and Sweden. If you look under Battles, you might think that the world had enjoyed sweet peace since 1892, or under Banks, that all financial institutions had closed their doors in that year. Churches have been inactive for more than a decade; Medical science has not been heard from for a score of years. The history of Boston closes with the opening of its new public library building, and the last event deemed worthy of chronicling under Dublin is the burial there of Charles Stuart Parnell (1891). For aught that this Book of facts tells to the contrary, the late Adolph Sutro (of library fame) is still mayor of San Francisco. Apparently none of our states have had governors for 12 years or more, and the census of 1890 is good enough for the "competent scholars" who brought the book down to date. The old plates were shorn of their page numbers and so the publishers were able to get up a "new edition" at small cost.

T. W. KOCH.

University of Michigan.

Bliss Perry, the editor of the *Atlantic monthly*, and author of many delightful essays, has been appointed professor of English literature at Harvard university from March 1, 1907. This professorship has been vacant for 20 years and was formerly held by George Ticknor, Longfellow and Lowell. Mr Perry will continue the editorship of the *Atlantic monthly* which he has held since 1899.

Raising the Initial Fee in A. L. A.

EDITOR PUBLIC LIBRARIES:

The recent action of the A. L. A. in raising the annual dues for the first year's membership from \$2 to \$3 will be a debatable question among many librarians until the Narragansett Pier meeting. It certainly will serve as a discouragement to more than one young librarian who has a strong desire to keep in touch with the profession, but whose salary will not permit much expenditure of money. Such a librarian expects to belong to the A. L. A., his own state association and, if he lives in a large city, his own city library club. At present this means \$5 annually for library association dues alone and does not include the necessary expense entailed in attending any of the meetings. There are few such librarians who do not have demands of other local organizations which seem quite as important to his professional success. These coupled to the necessary expense of keeping up with the particular phase of work he is engaged in, place the total expense beyond the possibility of even the most ambitious librarian on the average salary offered assistants in the large libraries or the head librarians of the smaller libraries.

It is strange also that many of these men who are standing for college trained workers are placing salaries of their staff at the lowest possible rate. If these men would offer pay, fair in proportion to the preparation they ask and to the places they expect the members of their staff to take in the social life of the community, they would attract men and women of more education and ability. If they do not, one of two things must happen—either they must hope to gain "endowed" workers (who are rare) or be content with the inferior type who by scraping and planning can manage to worry along. Perhaps no other attempt at this particular time, when libraries have become an established need in the community, would do more to raise the dignity of the profession, than would the declaration of these librarians in the

large libraries that they need good, high grade workers and that they should be paid good, fair, living salaries. The conversation and action of some "library employers" sometimes suggests that their economies and bargains extend into the realm of human lives, and that is a dangerous field. It would be interesting to compare statistics of labor in various occupations with the library wages.

The A. L. A. has been a democratic organization in its avowed aims and it will be a keen regret to many to see it take any action that will limit its present scope. If it is the purpose of the promoters of this plan to restrict the organization, will their desires not be met in the more limited plans of the Library institute?

Certainly this increase in dues of the A. L. A. makes the younger librarian feel that his profession is adding one more straw to his burden, when he would like to feel that from this source he could expect inspiration and help at this period of stress. IRENE WARREN.

School of Education, University of Chicago.

* * *

EDITOR PUBLIC LIBRARIES:

The librarians of small salary and large professional interest must thank PUBLIC LIBRARIES for the protest it makes against raising the entrance fee to A. L. A. Would it not be more just to raise the dues for those who occupy the high places in the association, particularly if they use these high places to put up the bars of entrance so high that the one of small means can ill afford to climb them for the scant privilege of seeing these same persons in high places plume themselves on "having arrived"? Until in very recent years it has been difficult to see the "value received" for the annual dues aside from the privileges of participating in the rates of travel and hotels, neither of which is ever a charge on the A. L. A. Why not take for a motto in dealing with ourselves the part of the much vaunted A. L. A. motto that says, "for the greatest number at the least cost"?

LIBRARY ASSISTANT.

Recent Action of the A. L. A. Council*

The executive board at the Atlantic City meeting recommended to the council the following amendment to by-law No. 1. Insert after the word January the words "save that for the first year the dues for individuals shall be \$3. Any person renewing membership shall pay all arrears of dues or dues required of new members." This recommendation was adopted by vote of eight to four. The chair ruled that inasmuch as it required three-quarters vote to suspend a by-law, it would also require three-quarters vote to amend. Dr Richardson appealed from the decision of the chair and asked for a vote as to whether a majority of the council was not competent to amend a by-law. The decision of the chair was not sustained and more than a majority of the council voting for the amendment, it was agreed to as recommended.

The following communication was presented from the Publishing board:

At a meeting of the A. L. A. Publishing board, March 9, 1906, it was voted that the council be requested to appropriate to the use of the board the accumulated income of the endowment fund and the income of that fund for the current year. This request I have the honor to present on behalf of the board.

(Signed) WILLIAM C. LANE, Chairman.

The council thereupon voted to grant the request.

It was voted that headquarters be established in New York on Sept. 1, 1906, if sufficient funds be in hand to insure the experiment for one year. E. C. Hovey has turned in to the treasurer \$1800 received as contributions for that purpose and has \$1500 more pledged. The association has paid Mr Hovey \$2168.78 since April 1, 1905, on account of salary and traveling expenses.

A Library Smoking Room

When the Elwood library first opened the doors of its new building to the public in June, 1904, many of the good townspeople looked askance at a certain very comfortable room occupying the sunniest corner of the basement.

* Extract from Secretary Wyer's report.

From the walls gleamed a large placard bearing the words Men's smoking room, and doubtless more than one citizen wondered what a smoking room had to do with a public library. The room was well furnished with chairs, tables, book shelves and the local papers.

This all looked very inviting, but it was soon discovered that sunshine, a newspaper and permission to smoke were not enough to attract the class of men for whom the room was primarily intended. Accordingly a number of games were added—chess, checkers and flinch. Soon after came piles of old magazines, donated by interested housewives.

Still the men did not come in very great numbers, so a series of Sunday afternoon meetings were held in the adjoining auditorium. Good music and the best speakers from Elwood and neighboring towns were secured. From the first the capacity of the auditorium was taxed to the uttermost.

The result was as intended. The men's room had needed to be advertised. Men living in crowded, unpleasant boarding houses were glad to discover just such a place, where the freedom of the home was blended with the privileges of the clubroom.

As soon as the success of the experiment was assured, a number of the best current magazines, duplicates of those found in the general reading room, were placed on the magazine rack. And last, but not least, a very small beginning was made toward a collection of books of special interest to men. This collection included books of short stories, books on the trades, advertising, gardening and athletics. From time to time bulletins are made and placed with the books listed, in a prominent position.

Each step has met with some response on the part of the public, and the effort has been rewarded with an ever increasing attendance. With greater resources, greater results might be obtained. But, considering the amount of time, money and effort expended, the men's smoking room has been found a paying investment—*Ethel McCullough, in March Indiana State library bulletin.*

A Movement in the Right Direction

Whereas many states have in the past been unrepresented at the annual sessions of the Association of state libraries and the American library association, largely by reason of the financial sacrifice to the librarians personally involved by attendance upon such meetings; and

Whereas many advantages accrue and are to be derived from such periodical meetings of the representatives of state libraries, with the opportunity they afford for consultation and mutual exchange of ideas regarding the work of such institutions; and

Whereas such advantages accrue mainly, if not wholly, to the institutions represented rather than to the individual representatives, by reason of the opportunity given for a general discussion of methods and aims, and a comparison of the work of the different institutions represented, resulting in the utilization of the combined experience of the library profession in solving difficulties and perfecting methods of government, and thereby lessening the labor and expense of library administration; and

Whereas the individual librarian is stimulated to better effort by such contact with his fellows, deriving as he does, in addition to the direct benefit flowing from the formal proceedings, a great deal of practical knowledge from the opportunity for informal discussion and personal intercourse afforded in the intervals between sessions, and thus enabling him to give his institution the benefit of knowledge and experience which could not readily be acquired in any other manner; and

Whereas the advantages thus derived are necessarily proportionate to the number of librarians participating in these annual meetings, and therefore a more general participation of all state librarians in these meetings is greatly to be desired;

Now therefore, be it

Resolved by the Board of trustees of the California state library that the attention of governing boards or other officers having control of state libraries and allied institutions in the various states should be called to the importance to library advancement of the work being done by, and the manifold benefits to be derived from membership in, the Association of state libraries, and attendance upon its annual sessions.

Resolved further, that such governing bodies and officers be and they are hereby urgently requested and solicited to send their respective librarians, or other accredited representatives, to attend the next annual meeting of said Association of state libraries, which will take place at Narragansett Pier, Rhode Island, on June 30, 1906, in conjunction with the annual meeting of the American library association, and as a matter of justice and expediency to provide for the payment of the expenses of such representatives out of their respective library funds.

Resolved further, that, as an evidence of the

sincerity and earnestness of this board in the premises, the librarian of the California state library be and he is hereby instructed to make arrangements to attend the said next annual meeting of the Association of state libraries, and that his expenses be paid out of the state library fund.

Resolved further, that a copy of these resolutions be sent to the governing board or officers of each state library or allied institution.

California state library, Sacramento, Cal., March 3, 1906.

Interesting Things in Print

The sixth report of the Public library commission of New Jersey is a most interesting résumé of the work of the libraries of the state for the year 1905. A clear idea of the progress of the work in general and of individual libraries is given and the showing is not only encouraging, but a credit to the state.

The Metropolitan museum of art in New York city has issued a bulletin devoted to the library of the institution. The bulletin opens with a most interesting historical sketch of the library from its founding in 1879 to the present time. The scope and purpose of the library are also set out, showing a distinctive growth in valuable and various additions. A list of recent additions shows many fine sets as well as single volumes of rare books. Facsimiles of title-pages and bookplates illustrate the bulletin.

Part 1 of the Suggestive list of books for a small library recommended by the League of library commissions contains Books for adults. A very valuable part of the pamphlet is the introduction which contains definite, lucid, sensible ideas on book buying and valuable information about sources of material, particularly periodicals. The pamphlet was prepared by Cornelia Marvin, for many years library instructor in Wisconsin commission and now secretary of Oregon commission.

The A. K. Smiley library in Redland, Cal., has issued a list of its music scores. All music is allowed to circulate, as many volumes as needed being taken on a library card at one time, subject to the usual regulations.

The report of the public schools of Missouri for 1905 contains a detailed account of the libraries of the state. A history of the Missouri library association is also included.

The Public library of Fitchburg, Mass., has issued a bulletin of music in the Francis H. Jenks music library. It contains 17 large pages of titles and an alphabetic list of composers.

Bulletin 102 of New York state library and 21 of Library school contains the lectures on United States government documents presented by J. I. Wyer jr, in the Alumni course for 1905. The material presented is comprehensive and a clear exposition of this much misunderstood subject. It will form a very valuable adjunct to every collection of public documents relating to the operations of the entire United States government, and those who lack a clear insight of the subject would do well to study its pages. It will probably be included in the Library reading course. It may be had from New York state library for 25 cents.

A list of books on automobiles, their care, management and construction, has been issued by A. C. McClurg & Co. An interesting item is Motor guide, giving automobile routes of Michigan, Indiana, Illinois and Wisconsin.

Librarians will be interested to learn that this house will soon issue for the committee of the Society for the promotion of engineering education, a revised and enlarged list of scientific and technological books. This list has been specially prepared as an aid to librarians. It will be published at an early date and will be forwarded as soon as ready upon application.

Library Hints

At the suggestion of the literary editor of the Newark *Evening news*, the libraries of the state of New Jersey send each week to the Newark library such items of news as they may have. These are typewritten and put in order by the Newark library and sent, on Saturday morning, to the *News* editorial

rooms. They then appear Monday evening under the heading Work of the libraries. The items are not entirely confined to information about New Jersey libraries. They sometimes include book lists and references to individual books. If librarians elsewhere who have not tried this plan wish to know about the details of the methods at Newark they should write to J. C. Dana, librarian of the Newark free public library. Mr Dana suggests that in every state similar library notes be gathered and published in one or more of the leading newspapers.

The Perth Amboy public library has received as a loan from one of its trustees an interesting collection of envelopes used during the civil war. These have been mounted and placed on exhibition in the children's room, where they are attracting considerable attention, especially from the eighth grade children, who are now taking up the civil war period in their study of United States history. On nearly all of the envelopes appear crude sketches and caricatures, which give an excellent idea of the spirit and the intense feeling of that time.

How to handle books

Good books are for use. Never regret that a book shows signs of honest wear. Keep books upright on shelves. Make the shelves narrow, seven inches wide, rarely more, and smooth, with smooth back and ends. Do not cover books. When they are worn and broken have them rebound. If you must mend, use paste, not glue or mucilage, and the less the better. Open new books carefully, a few leaves at a time, now at the front, then at the back, until you have bent it so that it opens freely from one end to the other. Do not snap it open with a crack. On wet days wrap the books the children are to take home. Do not let books stand on their front edges. Do not mark them or let others mark them — *Book notes, J. C. Dana.*

Library Schools

Syracuse university—Library economy department*

Origin—The department grew out of a demand for instruction in library science. In December, 1892, the board of trustees of the university elected the librarian, Dr Henry O. Sibley, instructor of library economy. The object was to give to students preparing for either the ministry or for teaching, an opportunity to learn how to both catalog their own libraries and to teach them the methods of literary investigation.

In September, 1896, at the request of a trustee, a student was admitted for two years' instruction in practical library work, to prepare her for the position of librarian of a public library. The following year the department received five applicants for instruction.

Regular classes were then formed for two years' training in library science. Since then the school has gradually grown in numbers, and improved markedly in its curriculum and requirements, until now it gives instruction which compares favorably with other established schools.

Aim—As all libraries need trained assistants, and as few libraries pay a sufficient salary to warrant students paying the cost of six years' instruction in preparing for the library profession, it was deemed wise to give an opportunity for high school graduates to prepare in a shorter time for active library work. Hence the object is to fit them for the positions of librarians of small libraries and subordinate workers in larger ones. It was designed to be a training class amid the culture of university life.

Thorough technical instruction supplemented by constant practical work is given. The rapidly growing university with its general and departmental libraries affords excellent practice. The research work carried on in connection with the seminars brings excellent problems for reference work. The most

scholarly combined with the simpler books make the student proficient in all kinds of cataloging. The Von Ranke library, with its Aldines, Elzevirs and other incunabula, with its numerous foreign books, furnishes excellent facilities for trade bibliographic work. As many of our graduates obtain employment in public libraries special attention in class work is paid to their methods.

Admission—Students are admitted to this, as to all other college courses, directly from the high school. They must either be graduates, or have an equivalent education determined by examination. Their preparatory studies must have included history of all countries and four years of language study, or the lacking subjects must be made up.

Expenses—The tuition of \$60 a year includes in addition to the instruction of the department the privileges of the gymnasium. A fee of \$5 is charged to all matriculants of the university and a graduation fee, which is \$5, in this department. The books and supplies amount to about \$25 in the two years. No estimate is made of the cost of trips to other libraries. Board and room in either of the two dormitories or in private homes is more moderate than in many institutions.

Environment—The public lectures of the university, the mingling with the students and faculties of all departments, and the whole college surroundings have an invaluable tendency to broaden the minds of the students. These, combined with the healthful atmosphere and pure water for which Syracuse is noted, add much to the advantages of the location of the school.

Faculty—The work of the department is carried on by five teachers, four of whom have had training in either the Albany library school or in the Library economy department of Syracuse university. One instructor has the degree of M. A. and one professor is a Ph. D. The staff of the general library renders much valuable assistance to the school. The language studies are taken in the same classes with the students of the classical and philosophical courses.

*This school was not included in list in A. L. A. hand book for 1905 and in this way was overlooked in asking for material for March PUBLIC LIBRARIES. Space is given his month to the account of its work by the present director.

Curriculum—The modern methods used in the best and most up-to-date libraries are taught in all branches of library science. More attention is paid to languages, topics, and literature of all kinds, than in most of the schools as the students come directly from the high schools, although some have in addition a year or two of college work. The instruction covers two full years with over 3000 hours of preparation and recitations.

Positions—We do not guarantee positions, but we do all that we can to secure them. Of the 56 graduates 31 are in active library work, three others have held library positions, five have other employment, nine are married and three deceased. Twelve students who did not complete the two years' work have held library positions.

Future—The new and commodious Carnegie library building in which we expect to have our quarters next September will add much to the conveniences and facilities of the department. This together with the increased endowment promises for the school a bright future.

M. J. SIBLEY,
Associate professor of bibliography.

Drexel institute

The students of the library school attended the bi-state meeting of the Pennsylvania library club and the New Jersey state library association at Atlantic City March 9-10. A reunion of students, graduates and instructors was held at dinner on Saturday night, March 10, when about 35 were present. This spring outing is always enjoyed by the students, who thus have a chance to see and hear many of the prominent workers in the profession.

The annual out-of-town visit to libraries will this year include Princeton, Trenton and the libraries of New York and vicinity. The visit will be made early in May.

Rosalie V. Halsey (1903) talked to the students on March 1, about Early American children's books, of which she has made a special study.

Mary P. Farr (1895) gave an informal

talk to the class, March 22, on The work of an organizer, a very practical and helpful subject by one who has had much experience in the work.

Miss Plummer and the students of the Pratt institute library school visited our school on March 27, when the usual interchange of experience on the part of the students of both schools made an agreeable variation in the day's work.

Daisy B. Sabin (1904) has been elected librarian of the Public library of Burlington, Iowa.

Florence Thompson (1905) has been appointed to a position in the library of the Department of agriculture, in Washington.

ALICE B. KROEGER, Director.

University of Illinois

The annual visit of the senior class to the Chicago libraries and publishing houses was scheduled from April 3-9. The entire senior class, 12 in number, accompanied by three members of the junior class and two from the library staff, was in charge of Miss McIlvaine, to whose wide acquaintance with Chicago library interests much of the success of the week's visit is due. The date was selected in order that the students might avail themselves of the opportunity to hear one or more operas then being sung, and nearly every member of the class managed to hear at least one opera. The last afternoon was a particularly interesting one and deserves special mention. The class spent the entire afternoon until train time in the Fine arts building, visiting the studios of Miss Stiles, Ralph Clarkson, Charles Francis Brown, Lorado Taft, and John T. McCutcheon. It was an experience which no one will soon forget. The class is most enthusiastic over the entire trip and thoroughly appreciative of the innumerable favors which its members received.

During the past month, the students and members of the library staff have had the pleasure of hearing a lecture on the principles of book reviewing, from Edwin L. Shuman of the Chicago *Record-herald*.

Grace D. Phillips (1905) has resigned her position as assistant librarian at the Eastern Illinois normal school to accept that of periodical assistant at the University of Missouri.

Flora V. Hunter (ex-1906) was recently married to Cleves Harrison Howell, U. of I. '05.

FRANCES SIMPSON.

Indiana

The library school of the Winona technical institute at Indianapolis was completely destroyed by fire on April 11. Fortunately the Easter vacation, which began April 12, allowed the directors time to readjust losses and arrange for new quarters.

Commodious rooms have been assigned in the Graphic arts building of the institute. The equipment of the library school, including a collection of some 1500v. which was completely destroyed, will be replaced.

The kind offers of books and study outlines from librarians throughout the country have been greatly appreciated by the Winona technical institute and library school.

MERICA HOAGLAND, Director.

New York public library training class

A class of 16 apprentices finished their course in the New York public library training class April 1 and six of them have already been given appointments in the New York public library system.

Cedric Chivers gave a lecture to the training class and assistants of the New York public library system in the assembly room at the Chatham Square branch on Wednesday afternoon, April 4, on the essentials of the binding and repairing of books. The subject was treated from the standpoint of the librarian and the hundred or more people present found the lecture very interesting.

During the last week of April, the two classes of apprentices which have been training during the current year, took afternoon trips of inspection to the libraries in nearby towns.

The entrance examination for the next training class will be held on September 12. Any one between the ages of 18

and 35 years and having a high school education is eligible. Applications for the privilege of entering the examinations should be made to Elizabeth L. Foote, No. 209 W. 23d st., New York city.

There is quite an activity among the assistants in the circulating department of the New York public library in the direction of self-improvement. Two voluntary study classes are now meeting one night each week; the training class room being given them by the library authorities for this purpose. One class of 22 is taking a course in literary criticism under the direction of Mrs Martha Foote Crow. Another class studies the history of English literature, under the direction of Miss Jenkins.

New York state library

New England visit and A. L. A. conference

About 30 of the students expect to attend the Narragansett Pier conference, and to make this possible and convenient, the regular Easter visit to New England libraries will be made this year June 19-29, immediately following the commencement exercises, which will be held on Saturday, June 16. The commencement address will be delivered by Dr A. S. Draper, commissioner of education.

Changes in curriculum

The faculty have voted that the course in library buildings, which has heretofore been a senior subject, in the future be divided between the two years. The instruction will still be given by W. R. Eastman. Six lectures will be offered in the junior year and 12 in the senior year.

The course in printing for the present year will be in charge of Elvira L. Bascom of the State library staff. Miss Bascom has had several years experience in editorial work with the Chautauqua press and for several years past has done work in connection with the printing department of the State library and Education department.

An extension of the course on public documents, which, for the last two years, has consisted of five lectures, is planned for 1906-07. The new work will consist

of at least 12 lectures; will be offered as a senior subject; will be extended to include considerable additional practice work and a consideration of state and municipal, as well as United States documents. The course will be offered by J. I. Wyer jr.

Outside lecturers

Among those who will visit the school during the coming month are Miss Sheldock of London, who will give two lectures to the school on story-telling to children, with illustrations, and Miss Hunt of the Brooklyn public library, who will give a course of five lectures on subjects connected with library work with children. These seven lectures will occur during the first 10 days in May, and taken together will constitute a very effective presentation of the principles and practice of library work with children.

Senior bibliographies

The subjects of the bibliographies presented by the members of the senior class for graduation are as follows:

Miss Beal—Canals and waterways of New York.

Miss Eastwood—Characterizations of great people in poetry.

Miss Eaton—Reading list on art for children.

Miss Gamwell—A selected bibliography of gardens and gardening.

Mr Goodrich—A reading list on the Old Northwest.

Miss Henry—Child labor.

Miss Hiss—Esperanto.

Miss Knowlton—Reading list on popular botany and zoölogy.

Miss Leonard—Bibliography of education for 1905.

Miss Mulliken—Some contemporary dramatists.

Miss Nelson—Mormons and Mormonism.

Miss Nerney—Handlist of the genealogies in the New York state library.

Miss Thomas—Trans-Mississippi frontier ranch life.

Mr Walter—Northampton, Mass.

J. I. WYER JR., Vice-director.

Pratt institute

The spring term opened according to calendar, April 2. Eighteen of the students of the general course visited libraries in New Jersey and Pennsylvania during the previous week's vacation, under the guidance of the director. The schedule of the trip included the following:

Library of Princeton university, New Jersey state library, Trenton public library.

Philadelphia, Apprentices' library, Widener and Wagner institute branches of the Public library.

Main library, new West Philadelphia branch, library of the University of Pennsylvania, and Drexel institute library and school.

Library company, Historical society's library and Mercantile library.

Franklin institute and Academy of natural sciences, Bryn Mawr college library.

Wilkesbarre, Osterhout library and Wyoming historical and geological society's library.

Scranton, Albright memorial library and Scranton correspondence schools.

Many pleasant social occasions were sandwiched in among the visits, and the director desires hereby to acknowledge appreciatively the kindness and hospitality met with everywhere.

The coming term includes several courses of lectures, among them the usual ones on Library buildings by W. R. Eastman, and on the History of libraries by the director. A new course is that to be given by Ida M. Mendenhall (1904), embodying the Normal school course given by her under the Indiana state library commission. This consists of six lectures on:

1 Coöperation between the library and the school.

2 Reading of children.

3 Principles of selection in children's books.

4 Reading lists helpful in the selection of children's books.

5 Picture bulletins.

6 Reference work with children.

A number of the general course students have had on hand an interesting piece of work in the reorganization of the library of the Willow Place chapel, Brooklyn.

The advanced class has just passed the following examinations with excellent marks:

Incunabula

1 Upon what consideration would you base your choice in selecting 100 books as a model collection of incunabula? Mention individual examples wherever possible.

2 What reference books would you choose for such a collection? Give reason for choice in each case.

3 Outline your plan for a special catalog for the collection, giving arrangement of cards and points to be emphasized.

Latin paleography

1 Describe briefly the several forms of majuscule writing, stating how they differ.

2 Write a history of the Irish hand and make a chart of its peculiarities.

3 Define stichometry, tachygraphy, cryptography.

4 Give a brief account of the cursive hands of the Middle ages and their development.

5 State the style of writing of each of the accompanying facsimiles. To what century would you assign each? Transcribe both facsimiles, filling out all abbreviations.

The students of this class, during the coming term, will have some practical work in the following libraries:

Brooklyn public library, Reference and Children's departments.

Columbia university library, Cataloging department.

Lenox library, Manuscript department.

The local visits to libraries for the rest of the year will be as follows:

May 4. New York public library, Administration building and Tompkins Square branch.

May 11. Columbia university library and 96th street branch of New York public library.

May 18. Lenox library and Library of the American museum of natural history.

May 25. Union settlement library, and Webster branch of New York public library.

June 1. Vassar college library and Poughkeepsie public library.

June 8. Newark public library and New Jersey historical society's library.

June 15. Yonkers. Women's institute, and Hollywood Inn libraries, and the public library.

Toward the latter part of the term the Saturday and Monday work will be so adjusted as to leave some Saturdays entirely free for all-day excursions.

MARY W. PLUMMER, Director.

Southern library school

The Southern library school entertained Andrew Carnegie at an informal buffet luncheon in the classroom April 6. The occasion was delightfully informal and the classroom never looked prettier with the lunch table decorated with apple blossoms and violets, and a big log fire burning cheerily in the open fireplace.

The class went on its Easter vacation April 12.

Summer course in bookbinding

A course in bookbinding for librarians will be given by Miss Stiles at her studio in the Fine arts building, Chicago, beginning July 9, and closing August 10. The course includes cleaning, mending, rebinding, different kinds of sewing, pamphlet and case binding, binding of plates printed on single sheets, with special attention to library bindings.

Indiana

The Public library commission of Indiana has issued a notice announcing its fifth annual course in library instruction in the Summer school for librarians at Winona Lake, July 9 to August 17.

Anna R. Phelps, head instructor of the library school at Indianapolis, and of three former courses in the Summer school for librarians, will continue to give the technical instruction. She will be assisted by Lilian B. Arnold, Ida M.

Mendenhall and Chalmers Hadley, all at work for the commission. The course of study will include book selection, orders, classification, cataloging, bibliography reference, and work with schools. Special lectures on other library topics will be given.

A Suggestion to Library Schools

EDITOR PUBLIC LIBRARIES:

Your collection of authentic statements of the history and ideals of the library schools of the country makes very interesting reading, and it seems wonderful to contemplate what a large field of activity the idea of a single man could inaugurate in a little over 20 years. The comment of one of the recent graduates has suggested to me the solution of a problem that I have had in my mind for several years. He says: Instead of each student picking out an independent and sometimes random subject for his original bibliography, some valuable and much-needed material might be turned out by a whole class working together or divided into two or three groups.

For several years I have felt the need of an author index to Poole's index, many persons who are writing memorial and other articles about people of more or less note, wishing to know what essays, poems or other matter have been published in the magazines but not collected in book form. It can readily be appreciated what a difficult task this is without an author index. Several years ago I suggested that the New York library club undertake the matter, but the members are all too busy. It is possible that the American library association Publishing board will be able to take the task in hand some time, but here is an opportunity for the library schools by coöperation to do much-needed work and win great glory.

Yours very truly,
F. B. BIGELOW.
New York society library.

Things Needful

There are two points which I would like to make as I feel sure that these weak spots are always noticed by employers and by library school graduates who realize that in some respects they are not well prepared for their work.

First, I have found librarians sadly lacking in business equipment in the minor matters, bookkeeping, office routine, business forms and methods, city accounts, etc., as well as in the more important respects—ability to purchase books and supplies to an advantage. Money is wasted by the trained librarian because she knows so little of typewriters, various office supplies, as well as books from the trade standpoint. She does not know what the discounts ought to be and what series are usually subject to long discount. She is ignorant of the wearing qualities and the different editions of the classics. In short she is usually not well fitted to spend the money put into her hands by the library board.

The other shortcoming in library training seems to me the failure to give the student knowledge of the social and educational forces with which the library is allied and with which it must coöperate. Young librarians usually know very little of the state's relation to education, courses of study, and of the different grades, of high schools, and normal schools. The plans for co-operation between library and school often fail to meet with cordial response from the superintendent because the librarian shows an utter lack of knowledge of the methods and aims of the school. It seems to me that there should be training in sociology and in the history of education and the work of public schools.

If the library is to be a factor for social betterment, it must take its place among other agencies and be directed by a librarian who understands and appreciates them. CORNELIA MARVIN,
Sec. Oregon library commission.

Library Institute**Illinois**

A very successful library institute was held at Mattoon, April 6-7, under the direction of the Library institute committee of the Illinois state library association.

The meetings were held in the Carnegie library. Thirteen librarians were present, representing the public libraries of Mattoon, Tuscola, Arcola, Charleston, Pana and Shelbyville.

The program opened Friday morning with a paper on library rules and regulations by Miss Howe, instructor in the Illinois state library school. Among other rules Miss Howe spoke of the number of libraries large and small that are doing away with the guarantor cards and issuing readers cards direct upon application.

Miss Price, instructor in the Illinois state library school, spoke upon the Library of congress printed cards, discussing the form of the cards, the amount of information contained on them, the ways of ordering and cost of cards.

Several librarians reported on the value of the printed cards to them, not only in the completeness of their catalog but also through the purchase of them, of the time saved, which can be spent so much more advantageously upon other work.

The afternoon session was devoted to book selection and the selection and care of periodicals. Miss Price spoke of the many bulletins and suggestive lists now published to aid not only in the selection of books but also in classifying and cataloging them. Many lists, as the *A. L. A. booklist*, suggest the classification and the possible subject headings as well as the serial numbers for the Library of congress cards for all books quoted.

The selection and care of periodicals was treated by Miss Booth, librarian of the Eastern Illinois state normal school. Miss Booth gave a selected list of periodicals, explaining the reasons for each selection and the best manner of checking the receipt of each number by means of the Library Bureau serial cards.

The evening meeting was held in the large assembly room of the Carnegie library and was open to the citizens of Mattoon. Prof. Alvord of the University of Illinois gave the address, Local history, the library and the public. He made a strong plea for the collecting of all documents, letters and newspapers that would throw light upon the history of the state of Illinois. He said that each generation rewrote history, from its own point of view, and he believed that there were many papers still to be found that would materially change the history of Illinois as it is now written. He spoke enthusiastically of the valuable documents he has been able to collect and which have been on exhibition at the University of Illinois as his Kaskaskian and Cahokian collections.

The part of the public library is not only to collect these old papers but also to preserve, for the benefit of the future historian and investigator, current material such as club programs, newspaper accounts of associations and congresses, and statistics of manufacturers and economic resources.

Saturday morning the time was devoted to discussion of binding, mending and mechanical preparation of books conducted by Miss Price and Miss Howe.

The subject for the afternoon session was Work with the children. Miss Arnold of the Indiana public library commission read a very interesting paper. One special feature she spoke of was that of the work with the Sunday schools. The Sunday schools of a particular town donated their entire libraries to the public library and became regular borrowers from the public library. Each Saturday the librarian from the public library made up a box of books to be sent to the Sunday schools and distributed there to the children in the various classes. The books may be charged at the library direct to the child. Monday the books returned Sunday are sent back to the public library. By this arrangement the public libraries are able to reach a larger class of children than otherwise perhaps and the children of the Sunday schools have access to the entire collec-

tion for young people in the public library.

With the close of the discussion upon children's work the institute adjourned with many thanks to Miss Gray, librarian of Mattoon public library, for having made possible so pleasant and profitable an institute.

ANNA MAY PRICE.

Texas

The first library institute to be held in the state of Texas took place at the Carnegie public library in Fort Worth, April 22-23, under the auspices of the Texas state library association; Vice-president Mrs J. C. Terrell presiding, and the secretary, P. T. Windsor, assisting. An excellent exhibit of library forms, bulletins, binding samples, and a Library of congress catalog, had been arranged by Mr Charles Scheuber, librarian of the Fort Worth public library, and proved an interesting and profitable feature of the institute.

Among the subjects presented were practical papers on Things that help to make a library successful, Miss Surratt, Baylor university library, Waco; Children's work and children's books, Mrs W. D. House, Public library, Waco; Cataloging for a small library, Mrs Dancy Ledbetter, Coleman; Buying books, J. M. Brown, a local bookseller; Binding and mending, F. J. Tanco, a practical bookbinder.

A public meeting was held on Thursday evening with addresses of general interest. The question of maintenance brought out very forcibly the error made in many contracts between libraries and cities, in which a fixed sum is named. The contract should always call for a certain per cent of the taxable values, thus allowing the library to grow with the city.

The institute closed with a resolution of thanks to Mrs Scheuber and her assistants and to the board of trustees of the Fort Worth library for their unremitting efforts toward the success of the institute.

ELEANOR EDWARDS LEDBETTER.

Library Meetings

California—A special meeting of the California library association was held in the San Francisco public library March 23, 1906, Pres. James L. Gillis presiding.

The proposed amendments to the constitution were adopted by unanimous vote.

The name of the association is hereby changed from Library association of California to California library association.

The most important of the amendments is that which provides that the state shall be divided into four working districts, a provision made necessary by the extent of the state and the number of widely scattered libraries. Each district is to have its own president appointed by the president of the association and each holds quarterly meetings with annual meeting of the whole association. The number of districts is left to the discretion of the president.

The scheme submitted by Mr Gillis and approved by the association provides for four districts, the first including the interior northern counties; the second, the counties around San Francisco and along the north coast; the third, the San Joaquin valley counties, while the fourth includes the counties south of Tehachapi.

Lauren W. Ripley, librarian of the Sacramento public library, was appointed president of the first district and J. D. Layman of the University of California library of the second district. The appointments of the third and fourth districts have not yet been made.

Mr Layman made an announcement of the summer school for librarians to be held in connection with the summer school of the University of California. Mary L. Jones, formerly of the Los Angeles public library, has consented to take charge of the school.

The association passed a resolution to coöperate with the National educational association in arranging for the meeting of the library section at the convention in San Francisco next July.

Reproduction of facsimile of rare manuscript

The following resolution was passed unanimously:

Whereas, all have heard with pleasure and interest Prof. Charles Mills Gayley's report of the present status of the plan to organize a central bureau for the reproducing in facsimile those documents of greatest value to the scholarly world,

Resolved, That the California library association endorses the plan most heartily, and confidently looks for the time not far distant when California libraries may be able to enrich themselves with the products of such a bureau. We are sure that this scheme will appeal to American universities and libraries as helping them to overcome the handicap of distance from the main sources of history and scholarship.

William R. Watson, assistant state librarian, then read a paper on the work that is being done by the State library, after which the meeting adjourned.

Colorado—The regular quarterly meeting of the Colorado library association was held at the office of the state superintendent of public instruction in the capitol, Denver, on Saturday evening, March 31.

The following program was presented: Problems of the college library, Mabel C. Shrum, librarian, State school of mines; Art and the modern library, Henry Read. The balance of the evening was devoted to the informal discussion of a number of topics of library interest, and especially the subject, Books for the blind, and the question of a union list of periodicals in the several libraries of the state.

H. E. RICHIE, Sec.

Pennsylvania—The third meeting of the season of 1905-06 was held on Tuesday evening, Feb. 13, 1906, at the Historical society of Pennsylvania. The meeting was called to order at half-past eight o'clock by the president, Dr. Jordan, who introduced the speaker of the evening, Major William H. Lambert. The latter said that instead of speaking of Lincoln as a letter writer, as announced in the notices of the meeting, he would read some of Lincoln's letters, since example is always more convincing than precept.

Lincoln's letters

Major Lambert then read a number of

letters selected from his private collection of Lincoln papers, beginning with one written by Lincoln to his first law partner, John T. Stuart, dated Vandalia, Feb. 14, 1839, and continuing with others written throughout his career, the last letter being one written by the president to Mrs Bixby of Boston, Mass., dated Nov. 21, 1864, and expressing his sympathy with her for the loss of her five sons in the Civil war. The letters showed a variety of phases of Lincoln's character—his desire for fair play in political contests; his impatience of helplessness and dependence on others as exhibited by his stepbrother and others; his sense of humor; his unflinching determination to adhere to what he thought the right attitude toward the preservation of the Union; and his deep feeling for those who had suffered loss by the war.

Among the most interesting was a series of letters addressed to the Hon. Lyman Trumbull, the senior senator from Illinois. These extended over a period from June 7, 1856, to Dec. 24, 1860. The senator has been accused of not having been entirely true to Lincoln, so that it was of especial interest to hear the declaration made by Trumbull in a draft of a letter to Lincoln dated Washington, April, 1860, relating to the nominations for the presidency, in which he says, I am for *you* first and foremost. . . . In his reply to this letter Lincoln expresses his confidence in the loyalty of Trumbull, and says, You may confidently rely that my pretensions shall not be pressed to the point of endangering our common cause.

Eighteen of Lincoln's letters were read from the original manuscripts, some of which, so far as Major Lambert knows, have never appeared in print. Five others were read from print, among them the notable letter to Horace Greeley dated Washington, Aug. 22, 1862, and one of Lincoln's so-called "paternal" letters, addressed to Gen. Hooker Jan. 26, 1863. Major Lambert read from the original manuscript also a letter written by Edwin Booth to Adam Badeau, dated

April 16, 1865, the day after Lincoln's death, in which the actor expresses the greatest horror and grief at the act of his brother Wilkes—I was two days ago the happiest man alive . . . now what am I!

In conclusion Major Lambert read the memorable second inaugural address of President Lincoln.

Upon motion of Mr Thompson, the club unanimously tendered Major Lambert a sincere vote of thanks for the very delightful evening for which it was indebted to him. Then followed the transaction of business and the meeting adjourned. EDITH BRINKMAN, Sec.

A Library Conference

The occasion of the dedication of the new buildings of the Chicago normal school April 21, was marked by a library conference in common with conferences in other departments. Dr E. A. Birge, dean of the University of Wisconsin, delivered the principal paper. Grace D. Rose, librarian of Davenport, Iowa, gave a very interesting account of the splendid work done for the public schools of Buffalo by the Buffalo public library. The president of the Chicago library club, Miss Ahern, brought greetings from and extended the congratulations of the libraries of Chicago. Irene Warren, librarian of the School of education, University of Chicago, spoke on the Work of a normal school library.

Dr Birge's paper was admirable in its treatment of the subject Books and life. It was in a measure based upon the article condemnatory of public libraries in the *Independent* last summer, and ought by all means to have a wide reading among the constituency of public libraries. Dr Birge showed that the idea of many people that the public library affects only a few people and mostly for recreation is a mistaken one. Not only the so-called learned professions—law, medicine, teaching and preaching—depend on books for the latest and best that is said and written on every representative subject, but that in the business world, in government, domestic relations, in fact every avenue of human

thought and endeavor turns to books for counsel, wisdom, warning and direction. Agriculture has its schools and its literature. Mechanics, engineering, mining no longer depend on the traditions handed down from one generation of employés to another, but send to the special schools for scholarly, trained experts, whose book knowledge supersedes the traditions and experience of the old school. Domestic science in the care of the household, both economical and sanitary, in the provision of food, clothing and habitation, the rearing of children, the relation of the home to the various activities of life, turns to the special schools, to the books and printed literature on these subjects and thereby overturns many of the long-cherished ideas and modes of procedure in these various departments. Dr Birge referred to the awakened interest of public schools in the power and influence of the work of the public library. Clubs, associations, manufactories and vast employing agencies turn to books to supply a needful and a lacking force in the complete equipment of their employés.

Dr Birge uttered a warning to libraries against doing other work than that which is legitimately their own, namely, supplying "the best books at the least cost to the greatest number." He questioned the wisdom of the libraries that undertake to do all the work in a town, which, as one librarian expressed it, was not done by any one else. He thought the library should be a supporter, an advertiser and a leader in pointing out what is needful to be done for a city, but that its largest wisdom lay in interesting other organizations more properly constituted for doing such work than the public library.

Illinois Library Association

On account of the special session of the Illinois legislature in Springfield, the meeting of the Illinois library association there has been postponed. Those in charge of the meeting have not decided on another date, but it will be announced as soon as circumstances make it plain when the meeting can be held.

News from the Field

East

The Arlington (R. I.) public library was opened to the public in its building on Friday, March 30. Librarian Koopman of Brown university made the principal address.

A new branch library has been opened in Haverhill, Mass. Every facility and equipment have been added to insure good work. The room is pleasantly located and tastefully decorated.

The report of the Public library of Greenfield, Mass., shows a circulation of 47,344v. with 16,683v. in the library and 2819 borrowers registered. The report contains a classified list of the books added during the year, which serves as a supplement to the catalog.

The report of Tuft's library at Weymouth, Mass., shows a circulation of 54,012v. for home use; 2543v. were loaned to teachers on their special cards besides the books sent to seven schools situated at a distance. The card catalog is being revised.

A letter from Prof. Edward W. Hall of Colby college, Waterville, Maine, says that he has not been made librarian emeritus, but emeritus professor of modern languages. His record of service is as follows: 1866, professor of modern languages; 1873, professor of modern languages and librarian; 1891, librarian and registrar; 1903, to date, librarian only.

Central Atlantic

Carrie E. Scott, New York '05-'06, has been appointed assistant to the supervisor of work with schools, in Pittsburgh, Pa.

Frank K. Walter, New York '06, has been appointed assistant in the reference department of the Brooklyn public library.

Col. Weston Flint, well known as former librarian of Washington, D. C., died there April 6, aged 71. He was No. 156 in the A. L. A. and a life member for many years.

The annual examination for promotion in the circulating department of the New York public library, will occur on May 22, 23 and 24.

The fourth annual exhibition of paintings will take place April 28 to May 16. This year the paintings are to be water colors by American artists.

The Free public library of Englewood, N. J., will shortly break ground for an extension to their building to be used as a children's room. It is reported to be the gift of the donor of the present building.

An interesting collection of guns and pistols lent by a citizen of Newark, and a display of photographs of school buildings lent by Teachers college, New York, have been the recent exhibitions in the Newark library.

Through Congressman R. Wayne Parker the Newark free public library has been made a depository library for government documents. One floor of the stack is to be devoted to this collection, the volumes to be arranged according to department, stamped with the library stamp but not catalogued. The latest accessions to the collection as soon as received are displayed upon a table in the delivery room for a brief time.

The report of Pratt institute free library shows a circulation of 141,503v. Of this number 58,847v. were circulated from the open shelf room with 4000v. The circulating department is open now six nights a week. The circulation of photographs was 1576. The story hour and work with the schools is restricted in interest and effectiveness only by lack of material and room to carry on the work. The account of exhibits is extremely helpful and suggestive.

The Department of education has begun to give courses of lectures in the assembly halls of the New York public library in coöperation with the library. The library has kept open in each case half an hour after the close of the lecture, so that those who wish to borrow books on the subject of the evening's talk may do so. The attendance so far

has been excellent and the results most gratifying. It is expected that during the next season the number of public library lecture centers will be largely increased. The assembly room at the Hudson Park branch, 66 Leroy st., has been occupied during the month of April by the Tuberculosis exhibition of the Charity organization society.

Central

Edna Lyman, children's librarian of Oak Park, Ill., has resigned her position to take up professional story-telling.

F. M. Crunden and his wife sailed on April 18 for a cruise in the Mediterranean to be gone for several months owing to ill health.

The medical library of the late Dr Harrison Hathaway, for many years an efficient trustee of the Toledo public library, has been given to the Toledo public library in accordance with the wishes expressed by the doctor during his lifetime. The library consists of 218 very valuable medical works.

The thirty-first annual report of the Toledo (Ohio) public library shows growth in every department; 10,571 v. were added to the library—one-half juveniles and one-quarter fiction; 896 v. and 1358 pamphlets were gifts to the library. The circulation from main library was 227,827 v.; from other deposits 18,606 v. The circulation through the public schools was most encouraging and could be indefinitely extended.

The annual report of the Dayton (Ohio) public library marks the centennial of the library organization. The increase in circulation was 47,553 over last year, reaching 204,857 v.; 3008 new cards were issued; classed books formed 40 per cent of the circulation; 232 teachers are receiving classroom libraries and report only 24 per cent use of fiction. The senior class in the Normal school met the librarian during the year for lectures on Books as tools, Making a card catalog, Reference books, Guidance of children's reading.

West

Esther Nelson, New York '06, has been appointed librarian of the University of Utah.

The University of North Dakota has received a gift of \$30,000 from Andrew Carnegie on condition that \$5000 is appropriated annually for maintenance.

Dr W. K. Jewett has resigned his position as senior assistant at The John Crerar library of Chicago to become librarian of the University of Nebraska.

South

William Beer, librarian since the opening day of the New Orleans public library, resigned his position April 19. Mr Beer continues as librarian of the Howard memorial library.

Pacific Coast

The A. K. Smiley library at Redlands, Cal., will be enlarged during the coming year. The plans are now being drawn for the extension.

The Los Angeles public library has moved into new quarters in a fireproof building. The library hopes for a new building of its own before long.

The recent loss to libraries by earthquake and fire in San Francisco is, in a large measure, irreparable. The Public library was contained in the City hall and suffered disaster both by earthquake and fire and the present report is—entire loss.

The Mechanic's institute library, which absorbed the Mercantile library some time ago, was a library of very great promise. It was in the very center of the course of destruction and must have been one of the first institutions to be destroyed.

It is reported that the flames stopped a block or two short of the Bancroft library building. That, however, is a two-story brick structure, fireproof, with heavy fireproof shutters over doors and windows, in a large isolated lot, and perhaps withstood the danger that surrounded it. Some of the contents had been removed to Berkeley before the earthquake.

The great Sutro library of old books was stored in two divisions, both in old buildings, neither fireproof, which were in the center of the burned district. As the material had never been classified, no one knows just what it contained, but aside from books valuable only from association there was a great mass of material which made strong appeal to scholars, and would have been of value when arranged. It was intended to place it ultimately in the Leland Stanford university as a sort of counterbalance to the Bancroft library in the University of California.

It is reported that the books in the University library at Berkeley were shaken from the shelves, but were otherwise uninjured.

The new Leland Stanford library building was wrecked, but the books had not been removed from the old building, which was somewhat injured, but the books were perhaps not materially damaged.

Later—Our lately consolidated Mechanics'-Mercantile library is entirely gone, so is the Sutro. The main library of Public is destroyed; the Bancroft library is the only collection left in San Francisco, apart from some of the Public library branches.

Meanwhile we have abundance of real estate and enough money to get started.

FREDERICK J. TEGGART,
Librarian late Mechanics'-Mercantile,
Hon. custodian Bancroft library.

Canada

R. J. Blackwell, librarian of Public library of London, Ontario, died March 31. His successor has not yet been chosen.

Foreign Notes

Thirty-three Paris librarians have issued a call for the establishment of an Association of French librarians. If enough responses are received the first meeting will be held at Easter time. The aims of the association are similar to those of the A. L. A.

R. Schülke, librarian of the Public library of Hamburg, has invented a new catalog indicator which is considered a

a great improvement over the English indicators which are familiar to all librarians. His claim for originality is based upon the use of the authors and titles of books in the indicator instead of the book numbers and upon the arrangement of the books in the library which follows the indicator exactly.

Belles-lettres are arranged alphabetically under authors, while other classes are arranged under subjects.

The assistants also, although separated by the indicator from the public, are accessible at any point behind it because the floor is raised above that occupied by the public.

It is not necessary to write down the title of a book as the reader may ask any assistant whom he happens to see for advice and does not, as in English libraries, have to go to specific openings in the indicator to have his book charged or discharged. Dr Hallier says Americans and now Englishmen demand open access, and he considers that this indicator is a solution of the whole vexed question. He believes that the casual reader gains no more by turning over the pages of the book than he does by reading the title. A survey of the whole library is given by this method.

He also contends that branches administered after the American pattern are expensive and not easily obtainable whereas an indicator with its corresponding quota of books can be set up and operated in a store with little expense.

This is of course debatable, but the German indicator certainly seems a great improvement over the English one because it is a systematically arranged, up-to-date catalog of the library instead of a mass of dead figures.

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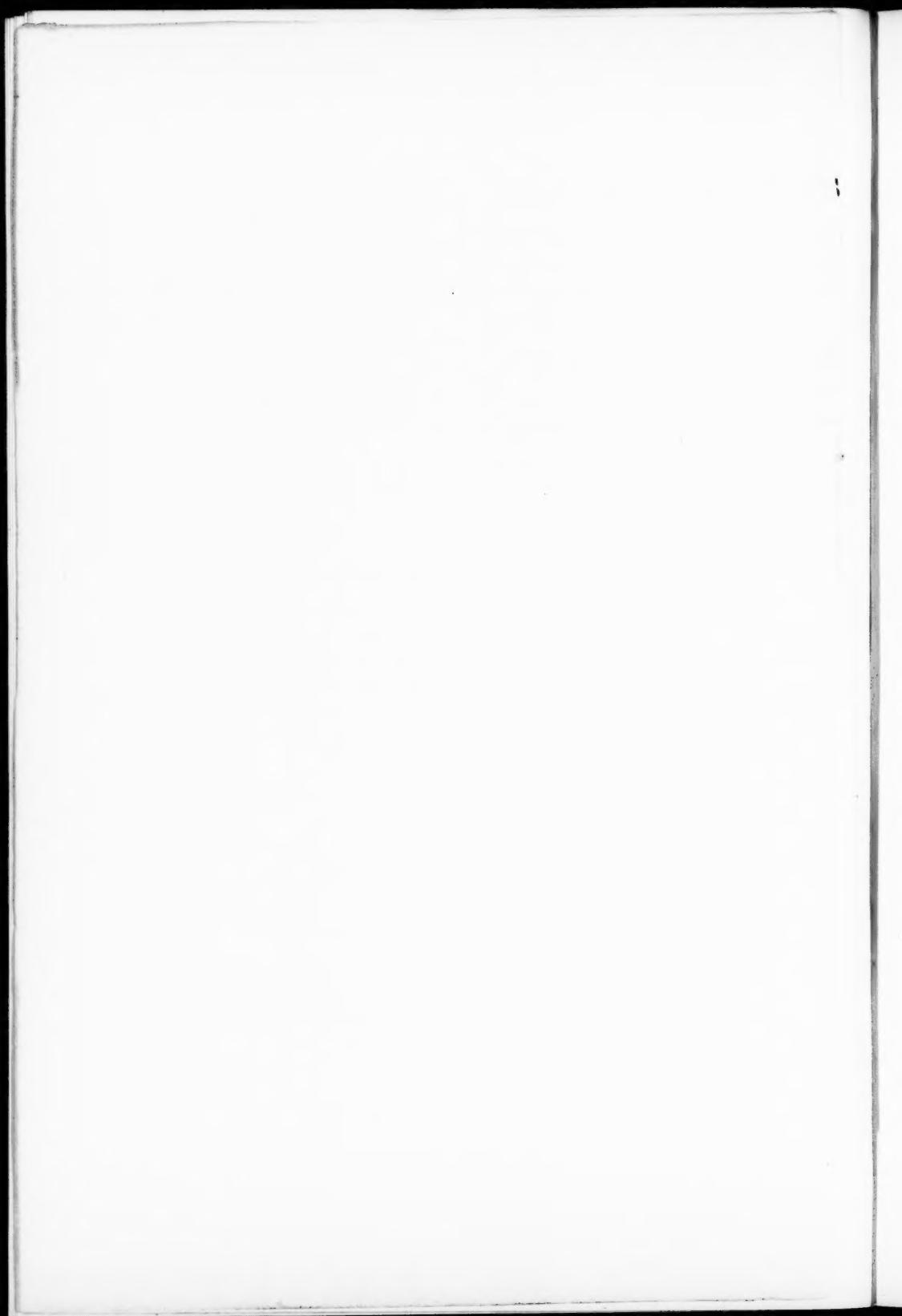
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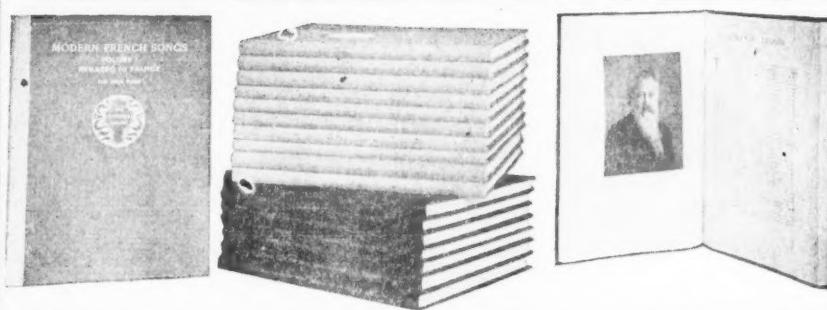
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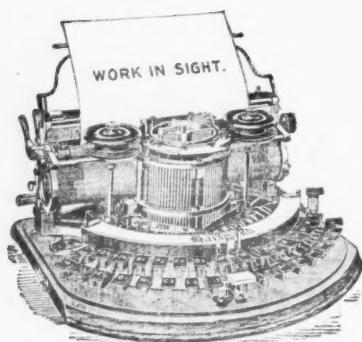
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